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Games on!

See Metro's Olympic coverage, pages 21-28

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Former Vancouver Canucks captain Trevor Linden carries the Olympic flame during the Olympic torch run in Vancouver on Thursday. The Olympic flame is finishing a 106-day journey across Canada in the longest domestic torch relay in Olympic history. It will end with the lighting of the Olympic cauldron at the opening ceremonies for the Vancouver Winter Olympics on Friday.

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

Thousands of cheering people lined city streets Thursday to welcome the Olympic torch as it finally came home to Vancouver.

The Olympic flame, which has been jogged and walked and wheeled and carried by every contrivance from surfboard to dogsled, crossed Boundary Road into Vancouver on Thursday afternoon.

"It was an incredible experience," said Vancouver firefighter Brian Bogdanovich, who ran the torch to the steps of city hall, passing through a throng of several hundred cheering and waving people.

"I think it has hit home for everybody. We've all been waiting for this moment for the torch to arrive and now it's here."

Among the torchbearers Thursday were former Vancouver Canucks captain Trevor Linden, basketball superstar Steve Nash and crooner Michael Bublé.

VANCOUVER GAMES WEEKEND UPDATES!
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The torch ended Thursday evening at a community celebration at LiveCity Yaletown.

NBC's Today Show host Matt Lauer, who ran with the torch along Canada Way in Burnaby, joked that he spent most of the run concentrating on not dropping the torch.

"I wanted to yell back, 'Go Canada, Go Canada,'" Lauer said. "Because, for this 300 metres I am Canadian ... It was wonderful to be a part of."

On Friday, the torch was to start its day at the north end of the Lion's Gate Bridge, passing through Stanley Park to East Vancouver and back. California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and former mayor Sam Sullivan will be among the bearers.

The torch will eventually cross from Granville Island to Yaletown by dragonboat and voyageur canoe on its way to the opening ceremonies at B.C. Place.

News on the Move
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Panasonic

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Protester claims she was punched at rally

Student allegedly hit by Olympic supporter

SEAN KOLENKO
for Metro Vancouver

An anti-Olympics protester alleges she was punched in the eye by an Olympics supporter at Langara College on Thursday afternoon.

Elizabeth McIntyre, a second-year arts and science student at Langara, was one of the roughly 20 people rallying against the school's support of the Games. During a ceremony in front of the campus library, she became engaged in a heated war of words with another woman in the crowd.

"This girl singled me out and told me I had no right to be there," said McIntyre. "I let her know that there was no reason I couldn't be there, and that really made her mad."

SEAN KOLENKO/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Elizabeth McIntyre shows her bruised eye on Thursday.

After some more yelling, McIntyre poured some of her water over the woman's head, prompting the woman to allegedly strike McIntyre on the left eye.

"This girl singled me out and told me I had no right to be there."
Elizabeth McIntyre, protester

Emma Gregory, another one of the protesters, said the rally was non-violent and the attack on her friend was uncalled for.

"We were chanting and we had some signs but that was all," Gregory said. "We did not provoke that."

Chris Gordon, Langara Students' Union spokesperson, is urging the college to investigate and punish whoever is responsible.

None of the Olympics supporters involved wanted to comment.

STIG NIELSEN/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

A zip-line operator zips across Robson Square Thursday.

Free zip line open to public

ROBSON The chance to soar above the Robson Square crowds is here.

The zip line constructed by Zip Trek Eco-Tours in early February opens Friday.

The line stretches 170 metres from Robson Square's south end on Hornby Street to the art gallery on Howe Street, providing 20 to 30 seconds of a pseudo-flying experience over Olympic festivities.

Those willing to take the leap start by climbing a tower three storeys above the courthouse.

The line is free and runs from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. until Feb. 28.

GREG DOWNS/
FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Suspicious package closes quay

SEABUS Lonsdale Quay in North Vancouver was shut down just a day before the Olympics open after a suspicious package was found.

SeaBus service was also suspended for hours, forcing TransLink to set up a bus bridge to move frustrated commuters.

"We're treating this with the utmost seriousness and the whole area has been closed down," RCMP Cpl. Marlene Morton said Thursday.

Const. Michael McLaughlin said a member of the public spotted the package outside the quay and called police.

"Our officers had to make the call to evacuate the immediate area around the SeaBus terminal and Lonsdale Quay terminal and a few shops and buildings as well," McLaughlin said.

"Until we know that the object is safe, we have to get people away. So we have our explosives disposal experts on scene right now."

The object was safely blown up and the terminal reopened in the evening.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Movies showtimes, trailers reviews and purchase tickets at **metronews.ca/movies**

Blogs Edmonton FC general manager Mel Kowalchuk tells It's Called Football why his team will succeed where others have failed

Video Meet Lori Nichol, choreographer to some of the world's top figure skaters, including Canada's Patrick Chan

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Olympic backers plan to counter protest at gallery

SUPPORT The tables may be turned on anti-Olympic protesters on Friday, when anti-anti-Olympic protesters — or Games supporters — head to the Vancouver Art Gallery to counter a rally set for 3 p.m.

The pro-Olympic gathering was set up in response to one organized by the Olympic Resistance Network, where Vancouverites who don't support the Games plan to march to B.C. Place to protest the Opening Ceremonies.

"Some people think they should voice their concern and try to embarrass Vancouver in front of all the global tourists in our wonderful city," reads a post on the Pro-Olympic Rally's Facebook page.

"I want us to rally and let the world know that we love the Olympics."

In attendance will be Peter Panda, the giant bamboo-eating, booze-drinking, Playboy channel-watching mascot of local clothing company Dussault Apparel.

Look for Peter Panda's They say protest, I say party! placard.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/
FOR METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

COLLISION A woman was taken to hospital on Thursday after being hit by a police motorcycle while watching the Olympic torch relay on Canada Way. Witnesses said the woman stepped onto the road after the torch went by and was hit by the passing motorcycle.

ROLLOVER There was some non-Olympic-related traffic chaos in Richmond yesterday when a dump truck rolled over into a ditch on Steveston Highway. Some of the local buses were re-routed. Nobody was seriously hurt.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Actors take break for Games

Productions of several Vancouver-area films and TV shows are taking a two-week break during the Olympics because of traffic chaos and road closures. The actors and crew for Smallville and Shattered will instead get a chance to sit back and watch the Games. METRO VANCOUVER

Singer set to pull double duty

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

GAMES Bedouin Soundclash lead vocalist Jay Malinowski will be wearing two hats when he comes back to his hometown on Friday for the 2010 Games.

In the morning, he'll be joining a star-studded cast of torchbearers — including Arnold Schwarzenegger and Walter Gretzky — to run with the flame along Homer Street.

The next night he'll perform with his band at Richmond's O Zone, the first of two shows Bedouin Soundclash is doing for the Cultural Olympiad.

"I was pretty taken aback by (the invitation to carry the flame)," Malinowski said.

"It's something I'll obviously remember for the rest of my life ... I wish Arnold Schwarzenegger was handing it off to me."

As for performing to Olympic crowds, he said he can't imagine anything bigger.

"It's not like a festival or something. (Here), you're a sideshow to the real event. We're just excited that we'll actually be able to get past security."

Avoiding the gong shows

BeatTheTraffic

Michel McDermott

A lot has happened in the past week to change how we get around Vancouver. Lane and road closures, rolling road closures, sporadic bridge closures, travel restrictions ... Phew! That's not even including the new closures that go into effect Friday.

It's overwhelming, so let's go through it together. First things first. Friday at noon we will see the pedestrian corridors go into effect downtown. This means the following closures:

- Robson Street from Bute to Beatty streets
- Hamilton Street from David Lam Park to Georgia Street
- Beatty Street from Smithe to Dunsmuir
- Granville Street from Smithe to Cordova

These pedestrian corridors are in effect Friday and again on both Feb. 28 and March 12 from noon until midnight.

The Cambie Street Bridge closes again Friday at noon in preparation for the opening ceremonies and reopens at midnight.

We learned from Wednesday's closure that Broadway and Pender, Hastings and Main streets were complete gong shows. Tempers flared as drivers tried to reroute over to the Granville or Burrard bridges.

Friday night will be even worse with thousands of people converging on B.C. Place Stadium. The people coming into the city will be staggered, but after the ceremonies, everyone will want out at the same time.

We've all been stuck in traffic leaving a Canucks game. Now multiply that by 10 and add the road closures, plus the LiveCity venues in that same area. Need I say more? So, what are you doing with your car? Right, leave it at home.

Watch Michel weekday mornings on Breakfast Television and her nightly Traffic Forecasts on Citytv, cable 13.

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#39	Will there be more than 1 Power Play goal?
#42	Will there be more than 1 goal scored in the 3rd Period?
#43	Will VANCOUVER be first to score?
#44	Will VANCOUVER be last to score?

Friday February 12 NEW YORK (R) @ PITTSBURGH (HKY)

PROP #	PROP
#45	Will MARIAN GABORIK score a goal?
#46	Will SIDNEY CROSBY score more than one goal?
#47	Will there be over 61 shots on goal?

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Olympics go 3-D at David Lam Park

FERNANDO CARNEIRO/METRO VANCOUVER

Panasonic's Eisuke Tsuyuzaki with singer Sarah Brightman at LiveCity Yaletown Thursday.

FERNANDO CARNEIRO
fernando.carneiro@metronews.ca

TV The Vancouver 2010 Olympic Games — including the opening ceremonies — will be shown for the first time in 3-D at Panasonic's Olympic Pavilion at David Lam Park.

The company's U.S.-based chief technology officer for North America joked at the unveiling of two HD 3-D theatres at LiveCity Yaletown that he hears people in Vancouver like hockey.

"It'll be as if you're there in the second or third row," Eisuke Tsuyuzaki said.

The stunning, realistic stereoscopic images are created by alternately reproducing at 60 frames per second for each eye a total of 120 frames per second. When these images are viewed through special glasses that synchronize the video they appear as though they're jumping out of the screen.

Takumi Kajisha, Panasonic's managing executive officer, said 3-D televisions will start being sold in North America sometime this spring. The company is launching a marketing campaign featuring Sarah Brightman, the world's best-selling soprano of all time, to popularize the technology.

The 3-D theatres will be open Feb. 12 to 28 showing a three-dimensional video of the opening ceremonies as well as highlights footage of the 2010 Games.

Legal society to hand out red tents in DTES as torch passes through

GREG DOWNS
for Metro Vancouver

JUSTICE When the Olympic Game's switch into high gear Friday, so will Pivot Legal Society.

The organization that represents the rights of members of the Downtown Eastside will kick off its campaign to give out red tents to the homeless as the Olympic torch passes through Strathcona Park Friday morning.

Pivot will also be launching its Olympic Legal Defence Team, which provides an around-the-clock legal hotline for Downtown Eastside residents who need immediate legal assistance.

The defence team is a reaction to the increased police presence expected during the Olympic games that some fear will target the Downtown Eastside, said Pivot lawyer Katrina Pacey.

News in brief

EDUCATION Parents and teachers at a West End school are fighting to keep the neighbourhood's inner city status to keep from losing special funding for needy kids, news1130.com reports. Lord Roberts Elementary stands to lose its Youth and Family Worker and after school sports programs.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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At participating stores. © Tim Hortons, 2009

N.B. minister resigns from cabinet

New Brunswick's justice minister has resigned from cabinet as the result of a breach of privacy that occurred when he was minister of local government. The Opposition Conservatives called for the resignation of Bernard LeBlanc after an email was released identifying a complainant in an animal abuse case. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Florists deal with trio of events

Since the Winter Olympics has competition from Valentine's Day and Chinese Lunar New Year, it looked like a perfect storm for Vancouver florists. Some downtown florists say they're getting orders for cheap red-and-white bouquets from customers who want them in hand for rink tossing at the figure skating venue. But with Valentine's Day fast approaching, business in red roses was slow.

Colonel's home searched by cops

CRIME Forensic investigators from the Ontario Provincial Police spent hours Thursday combing through the Ottawa home of an air force colonel charged in the murders of two women and the sexual assaults of two others.

Officers arrived at the house shared by Col. Russell Williams and his wife shortly after noon. Williams, the former commander of Canadian Forces Base Trenton, was arrested Sunday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

m.metronews.ca

SCANLIFE

Many gay teens who find being out and proud difficult in small town Canada seek to find acceptance in big city diversity. Scan this code for the story.

LARRY MACDOUGAL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jim Prentice, minister of the Environment and minister responsible for southern Alberta, talks to reporters in Calgary on Thursday.

Oilsands need to get greener, Prentice says

ENERGY Federal Environment Minister Jim Prentice says outside criticism of Alberta's oilsands will continue unless there is a constant effort to improve their environmental impact.

He was responding to an announcement by U.S. organic food store Whole Foods and home furnishings chain Bed, Bath and Beyond that they will not buy fuel derived from the oilsands. He says it's Canada's responsibility to push back against such criticisms and make it clear to the rest of the world that the country is doing the right thing environmentally. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Buy American deal bashed by unions

Agreement gives too much away: Critics

Ontario must reject a new trade agreement that allows Canadian companies to be temporarily exempt from the Buy American elements of Washington's stimulus package, critics demanded Thursday after releasing a leaked copy of the bilateral agreement.

The one-sided deal will eventually give foreign companies permanent access to publicly funded contracts in areas like schools and hospitals that were previously closed to them, while the province is getting very little in return, they said.

In exchange, Canadian companies will get access to a small pot of U.S. stimulus funding, most of which has already been spoken for, said Fred Hahn, Ontario president of the Canadian Union of Public Employees.

$73B The deal will open about $10 billion worth of Ontario projects to the U.S. and about $73 billion worth of American projects to Ontario businesses, Premier Dalton McGuinty said.

"It binds us forever to opening procurement," he said.

"This isn't just about some short-term deal to get access to money that ... is practically all committed. Alongside it is a forever agreement. That's not something that I think anybody in the province of Ontario thinks we're signing up for."

Only Ontario and Quebec have included procurement contracts for schools, hospitals, universities and social services in the agreement, according to the leaked documents. But Quebec has a clause that exempts anything that pertains to culture, said Stewart Trew of the Council of Canadians.

"We have questions about why Ontario's Crown corporation responsible for water utility management maintenance has been included into its list of committed agencies," he said.

Bans on bottled water, "buy local" food initiatives and fair wage policies in Ontario may all come under attack from U.S. and foreign companies as a result, Hahn said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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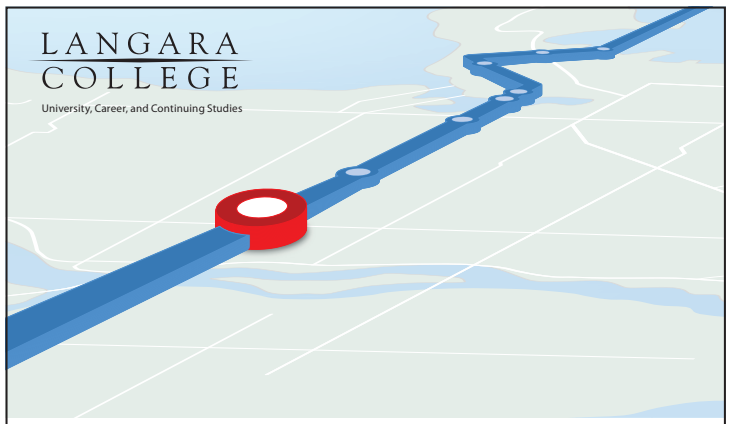

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Ontario pays out big bucks to promote HST
The Ontario government paid nearly $700,000 for an ad campaign aimed at promoting its controversial plan to harmonize sales taxes. Newly released documents show that the government paid Narrative Advocacy Media $95,000 to provide "strategic communication" and shelled out over $600,000 for online ads. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cannon prods China on Iran

China needs to use its clout to curb Iran's pursuit of nuclear power, Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon said Thursday, refusing to rule out further sanctions against the Islamic regime.

"I think the Chinese need to step up to the plate here. China, of course, is a very highly regarded partner with Iran," Cannon said in an interview with The Canadian Press. Speaking in his office overlooking west Quebec, he said he expects the issue to dominate discussions among G8 foreign ministers to be held next month just across the river.

Last week, Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said sanctions against Iran would be counterproductive to ending Tehran's nuclear ambitions.

Jiechi said countries can pursue peaceful nuclear energy as long as they conform to UN oversight by the International Atomic Energy Agency. But that is something Iran has not done.

"As China commits to IAEA obligations they will be in a good position to be able to influence," Cannon said, adding he expects the G8 ministers to be seized with the Iranian nuclear question when they convene in Gatineau, Que., next month.

Cannon called on Iran to cease uranium enrichment and open up to UN inspections in order to re-establish some credibility with the global community.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PAWEL DWULIT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon arrives for a press conference at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Ottawa on Thursday.

Premier's neighbours most accepting of his U.S. surgery

HEALTH A poll says those closest to Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Danny Williams are most supportive of his trip to the U.S. for heart surgery.

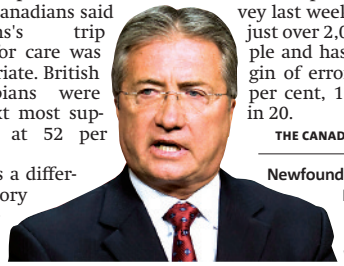
A new Canadian Press/Harris Decima survey found 65 per cent of Atlantic Canadians said Williams's trip south for care was appropriate. British Columbians were the next most supportive at 52 per cent.

It was a different story in Quebec where just over half of those surveyed said the premier's contentious choice was inappropriate.

Overall, 44 per cent of Canadians supported the premier's decision, while 42 per cent did not.

The telephone survey last week polled just over 2,000 people and has a margin of error of 2.2 per cent, 19 times in 20.

THE CANADIAN PRESS


Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Danny Williams

Canada seen as a safe investment: CIBC

BANKS The investment world is knocking on Canada's door and the rapping will only get louder as sovereign debt issues in Europe and the United States escalate, according to a new bank report.

CIBC World Markets says Canada is increasingly being recognized as a "safe harbour" from the debt crisis engulfing southern Europe and one which some fear could spread to the United States.

"It's a case of the country never having looked so good by comparison," said the bank's global strategist, Warren Lovely.

"Before the crisis hit in 2008-09, Canada already stood out in terms of our fiscal position, and the simple matter is that our edge will continue to grow in the years ahead."

"It's a case of the country never having looked so good by comparison."
Warren Lovely, CIBC global strategist

Despite a massive $56-billion deficit this year, Ottawa has the Group of Seven's best fiscal position by far. National debt stands at 35 per cent of the economy, the country has sound banks and a solid AAA credit rating, and there are expectations it will lead its peers in growth over the next few years.

Another important edge — one that may come as a surprise — is that Canada is primed to become a low-tax zone for business with a combined federal-provincial corporate rate of 25 per cent after 2012.

The pay-off, says Lovely, is that foreign investors will be increasingly attracted to Canada because of its stronger economic prospects and a currency likely to appreciate rather than depreciate.

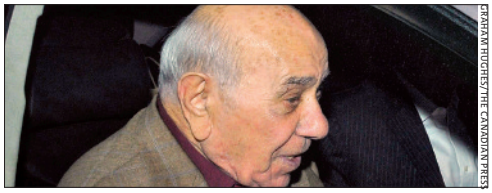
Lovely points out that Canada's advantage is already showing up in the statistics. In November, the last month for which data is available, foreign investment in Canadian securities topped $10 billion, four times the level of Canadian investment in foreign markets.

Demand for Canadian government bonds is also hot. Ottawa was able to quickly raise two billion euros ($2.87 billion) through a global 10-year bond issue last month. Buyers included central banks, other official institutions, commercial banks and foreign-based investment funds.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

N.B. backbencher turfed for obscene gestures
Liberal backbencher Abel LeBlanc was expelled from N.B. legislature Thursday after raising his middle finger — twice — at Opposition Conservatives. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mafia gramps pleads guilty, walks out free


GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Crime boss Nicolo Rizzuto leaves a Montreal jail in this file photo.

The grandpa in Canada's most notorious Mafia family pleaded guilty to tax evasion, settled his debts with the tax man, and strolled out of a courthouse wearing a smile and a fedora hat.

It took less than 15 minutes in a courtroom Thursday for octogenarian Nicolo Rizzuto to walk out a free man. It had taken more than 15 years to bring his tax case to court.

The case stems from infractions committed in the mid 1990s by Rizzuto, the father of reputed Mafia boss Vito Rizzuto and grandfather of the recently murdered Nick Rizzuto Jr.

He admitted failing to declare interest revenues from more than $5 million deposited in a handful of Swiss bank accounts.

In 1994 and 1995, Rizzuto earned $627,906 in interest from the foreign accounts and didn't declare it. Police uncovered the Swiss accounts in the mid-'90s, but didn't pursue the case.

Tax authorities only discovered the accounts when Rizzuto was swept up in a massive police dragnet against organized crime in 2006. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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More Canadians needed special care for H1N1 than season flu: Report

Flu Outbreak

HEALTH A new report shows a higher proportion of Canadians needed specialized hospital care for H1N1 influenza than those admitted for complications of seasonal flu during a typical winter.

The study by the Canadian Institute for Health Information compared hospital statistics on H1N1 patients between April and December with figures for patients with regular flu during the 2007-2008 season.

Almost one in six patients in hospital for H1N1 were admitted to the ICU, compared with less than one in 10 of those with seasonal flu or flu-related pneumonia.

And when it came to the proportion of patients needing ventilators to assist breathing, H1N1 patients more than doubled the influenza-pneumonia group.

The report found patient age also differed greatly, with a median age of 28 for hospitalization due to H1N1, versus 71 for those admitted for seasonal flu or related pneumonia.

The study also found the proportion of pregnant women hospitalized with H1N1 was higher than what would be expected in a typical flu year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

HALIFAX Although Premier Darrell Dexter ruled out the need for an inquiry into Nova Scotia's expense scandal Thursday, there were signs the government is looking to move soon to tighten the rules for house members. Former Speaker Art Donahoe confirmed he had been asked to submit an interim report on allowances and perks to the board that oversees the regulations on members' expense allowances.

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Virtual-reality healing
Military doctors say they will be able to treat wounded soldiers with a new simulator that recreates the experience that injured them. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime minister rallies Games spirit in B.C.

Harper tells Canadians to cheer on team

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

Prime Minister Stephen Harper says Canadians should drop their normally quiet nationalist nature during the Winter Olympics to loudly and proudly cheer on Canada's Olympic athletes.

In a speech in the B.C. legislature, Harper said Canadians should glow with national pride throughout the Games, set to start Friday.

"Patriotism, ladies and gentlemen, patriotism as Canadians, should not make us feel the least bit shy or embarrassed," he said Thursday, on the eve of the Olympic opening ceremonies.

"There is nothing wrong, and there is much that is right, in celebrating together."

Harper delivered a speech equal parts British Columbia history lesson and Olympic pep talk.

His appearance at the sitting B.C. legislature stirred controversy in Ottawa among the Opposition Liberals, who say the prime minister prorogued Parliament in order to duck national debate.

Harper said nationalism has been abused by others in the past, but Canadians, who generally shy away from overt displays of national pride, should feel no embarrassment to be bursting with pride over the next few weeks.

"I know that thoughts of grandeur and boisterous displays of nationalism we tend to associate with others," he said.

"Yet, we should never cast aside our pride in a country so wonderful ... merely because the notion has sometimes been abused."

"There is nothing wrong, and there is much that is right, in celebrating together."
Stephen Harper

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Judge rules drawing racist slogans on kids is battery

MANITOBA A judge has ruled that a Manitoba couple can't have custody of their children because they were endangering them when they taught them neo-Nazi beliefs and wrote racist slogans on their daughter.

"Writing and drawing racist expressions and symbols on one's child is not just bad parenting. Those interferences with a child's person are batteries," Court of Queen's Bench Justice Marianne Rivoalen wrote in her decision Thursday.

"Advocating genocide and the wilful promotion of hatred against an identifiable group are crimes in this country. These children have a right to be protected from these things." THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

ETHIOPIA Federal Transport Minister John Baird says he's made progress to secure the release of a Canadian who's spent three years languishing in Ethiopian prisons. Baird paid a whirlwind visit to Addis Ababa where he personally lobbied Ethiopia's foreign minister to free Bashir Makhtal, whom Canada believes has been wrongly convicted on terrorism-related charges.

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Clinton hospitalized with clogged artery
Former U.S. president Bill Clinton had two stents inserted Thursday to prop open a clogged heart artery after being hospitalized with chest pains, an adviser said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Facebook deletes U.K. convicts' profiles

The criminals are behind bars but their victims are still feeling their reach. The British government said Thursday that Facebook had removed the profiles of 30 U.K. inmates at its request after incidents in which prisoners reportedly used the social networking site to taunt others. The Sunday Times newspaper reported last month that Colin Gunn — a gangland boss convicted of conspiring to murder a couple in 2004 — warned on Facebook that "I will be home one day and I can't wait to look into certain people's eyes and see the fear of me being there." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

CHINA A Chinese court on Thursday upheld the unprecedented 11-year sentence of a prominent academic who called for political reform — the latest in a rash of harsh punishments for activists that underscore Beijing's refusal to brook any dissent. The ruling drew a rare public rebuke from the U.S. ambassador, who said Liu Xiaobo should be released immediately. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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No appeal for guards in Iraq

Hundreds of private security guards who have been ordered to leave Iraq within days because of links to Blackwater Worldwide cannot appeal the order, Iraq's interior minister said Thursday.

The expulsion comes in the wake of a U.S. judge's dismissal of criminal charges against five Blackwater guards who were accused in the September 2007 shooting deaths of 17 Iraqis in Baghdad.

"We decide whether foreign security companies stay or not," Interior Minister Jawad al-Bolani told The Associated Press on Thursday, saying the decision was final and could not be appealed. Al-Bolani announced late Wednesday that about 250 private security guards linked to Blackwater must leave the country or face possible arrest on visa violations. The order applies to security contractors who worked for Blackwater in Iraq at the time of the 2007 shooting.

Blackwater security contractors were protecting U.S. diplomats when the guards opened fire in Nisoor Square, a busy Baghdad intersection, on Sept. 16, 2007. Seventeen people were killed, including women and children, in a shooting that inflamed anti-American sentiment in Iraq. Backlash from the Blackwater shooting has been felt hardest by private security contractors, who typically provide protection for diplomats, journalists and aid workers. Based in North Carolina, Blackwater is now known as Xe Services, a name change that happened after six of the security firm's guards were charged in the shooting. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SCANLIFE
Iran's nuclear announcement helped thaw Moscow and Ottawa relations — a thaw that earned Stephen Harper a Finnish tongue-lashing. Scan this code for the story.

SCHALK VAN ZUYDAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

People surround a statue of Nelson Mandela Thursday.

Twenty years later: Mandela and South Africa

JOHANNESBURG South African lawmakers sang Nelson Mandela's praises Thursday as the anti-apartheid icon settled into parliament's public gallery for a State of the Nation address scheduled in tribute to his 20 years of freedom.

Mandela was released in 1990 after spending 27 years in prison and went on to lead South Africa through the last stretch of a stunning, peaceful revolution from apartheid to democracy. His release was remembered as triumphant Thursday, but the moment was uncertain and anxious for South Africa, and it is a testimony to Mandela's statesmanship that things went so well.

"When Mandela was released we did not know what was going to happen," said Nontuntuzelo Faku, who joined thousands of people who marked Thursday's anniversary near Cape Town at what was known in 1990 as Victor Verster, the last prison where Mandela was held. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Solar observatory takes maiden voyage into space

The most advanced solar observatory ever built rocketed into space yesterday on a five-year quest to shed light on Earth's star. It was NASA's second launch in four days. On Monday, Endeavour blasted off to the International Space Station. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PIER PAOLO CITO/AP PHOTO

U.S. troops walk by a mine-resistant vehicle in southern Afghanistan yesterday.

Strike against Taliban nears

U.S., Afghans prepare for 'biggest offensive' of nine-year war

U.S. and Afghan forces have ringed the Taliban stronghold of Marjah, sealing off escape routes and setting the stage for what is being described as the biggest offensive of the nine-year war.

Taliban defenders repeatedly fired rockets and mortars Thursday at units poised in foxholes along the edge of the town, apparently trying to lure NATO forces into skirmishes before the big attack.

"They're trying to draw us in," said Capt. Joshua Winfrey, 30, of Tulsa, Okla., commander of Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines.

About Marjah

- Marjah is a town of about 80,000 people in the Helmand province where Taliban presence is particularly high.

Up to 1,000 militants are believed holed up in Marjah, a key Taliban logistics base and centre of the lucrative opium poppy trade. But the biggest threats are likely to be the land mines and bombs hidden in the roads and fields of the farming community

The precise date for the attack has been kept secret. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thousands soaked by rain in makeshift Haiti shelters

Haiti Crisis

PORT-AU-PRINCE A pre-dawn rain shower soaked tens of thousands living in rudimentary shelters in Haiti's capital Thursday, an alarming taste of the havoc a sustained tropical downpour could wreak on this earthquake-ravaged country.

Rain collapsed cardboard shacks and soaked clothing and bedding at the Marassa 14 camp, where about 2,500 earthquake-displaced people live in a dry riverbed. People scrambled to shore up leaks.

Most of the estimated 1.2 million people that the U.N. says are living in temporary camps across Haiti dwell in simple structures made of bed sheets and plastic sheeting. Officials warn that more permanent shelter must be had before the rainy season begins within weeks.

Downtown, more than 1,000 people demanded shelter in separate protests outside the collapsed National Palace and at the police post where government ministers have temporary offices.

"They're not giving us tents. It's raining and now we are in trouble," said one protester, Saintel Petit.

The European Union, criticized for its slow response to the earthquake, said Thursday it will mount a military operation to bring shelter before the start of the rainy season, usually in April. Officials did not immediately give details. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Conflicting tolls

- Wildly conflicting death tolls from Haitian officials, have raised suspicions that no one really knows how many people died in the Jan. 12 earthquake.
- The Communications Ministry triggered confusion Wednesday in statement saying 270,000 bodies had been hastily buried following the quake. It later withdrew the statement, blaming a typo.

Blast blackens NYC building

NEW YORK An explosion in a transformer underneath a Manhattan sidewalk sent flames up the front of a landmark building Thursday, shattering windows and blackening the facade of several stories. No injuries were reported.

Consolidated Edison spokesman Christopher Olert said the transformer was in a vault below the front of the seven-story building. An investigation was under way into the cause.

Deputy Fire Chief James Daly said firefighters were initially called out for a report of smoke coming out of a manhole. He said firefighters had been out all night to deal with manhole fires because of runoff from snow and salt coming into contact with electrical grids below ground.

"It was a pretty powerful explosion."
Deputy Fire Chief James Daly

Carol Paplin, who works on the sixth floor of the building on Sixth Avenue in the Chelsea district, said she detected a sulfur odour as she neared the building at 10:30 a.m., but as she got to the entrance the smell faded and she went inside. Building workers were told via the public address system that there was a fire on the sidewalk but not to be alarmed, Paplin said.

About 11:20, the explosion happened, with the fireball reaching three stories high. "It was a pretty powerful explosion," Daly said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zimbabwean forces accused of poaching

The leader of a UN protected endangered species program charged that security forces are spearheading poaching of elephants and rhinos in Zimbabwe. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hong Kong retrial for ex-pat

Nancy Kissel has always maintained that she killed her investment banker husband in self-defence, fending off a physical and sexual attack, but a Hong Kong jury found her guilty four years ago of sedating him with a laced milkshake before bludgeoning him to death.

In a stunning reversal Thursday, however, the territory's highest court overturned that conviction, ordering a retrial in the case that has grabbed headlines and spawned a book and TV special with its lurid tale of adultery, drug use and sex abuse in the rarefied world of wealthy American expatriates.

Hong Kong's Court of Final Appeal said that prosecutors had improperly cross-examined the 45-year-old mother of three during the trial and that the judge wrongly allowed hearsay evidence.

"It is plainly in the interests of justice that there should be a retrial," the five-judge panel said.

Kissel, who is four years into a life sentence, will remain in jail, but can now apply for bail pending her new trial, the court said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Montana house horse **Leaving an impression**

NICK WOLCOTT/BOZEMAN DAILY CHRONICLE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Jan. 22 picture, Rowan, the miniature horse, stands in the Thorn family's living room in Belgrade, Mont. The 30-inch miniature horse sleeps next to her owners' bed, weighs about a hundred pounds and takes baths in the bathtub. She rides in the back of an SUV, and she even has a doggy door. "Really, it's just like having a big dog," Mike Thorn said. "Except that when she steps on your foot, it leaves a little more of an impression."

News in brief

SIGN Swedish police on Thursday arrested a former neo-Nazi leader that Polish investigators suspect of being involved in the theft of the Arbeit Macht Frei sign at Auschwitz. The 34-year-old was detained in Stockholm on a European arrest warrant.

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Comment

When cheering stops, get ready for bill

UrbanCompass

There's already a forecast deficit of $1.7 billion for this year alone, and estimates have a way of growing into even bigger realities. One thing is certain. We'll be paying for these 2010 Olympics for many, many years to come.

They're here. Today. Finally.

So knock yourself out. It cost you enough.

Two weeks from today, the Games will be played, the medals counted, the flags waved.

And when the cheering stops, then comes the bill.

The other shoe, the provincial budget, drops on March 2. There's already a forecast deficit of $1.7 billion for this year alone, and estimates have a way of growing into even bigger realities. One thing is certain. We'll be paying for these 2010 Olympics for many, many years to come.

And with every cut to health or education, someone will ask, "Was it worth it?"

A long time ago, Victoria tossed out the idea that we could enjoy $10 billion in direct benefits from the 2010 Olympics. Post-recession (oops), PricewaterhouseCoopers was able to peg the direct benefits in the run-up to the games to a less splendid $1 billion.

For the next few weeks, hungry sales clerks will hope to add to the tally as Olympians from Norway to North Dakota comb through the made-in-China Mounties and other souvenir debris.

But it will take a while to come up with a final answer to that question, as it did for Expo 86, the last time the world came to our door. Turns out the world liked Vancouver so much it moved in and built a megatropolis out of a sleepy city by the sea. Long after they put the floating McDonald's barge in drydock we can point to the skyline, SkyTrain and sky-high real estate prices as the legacy of Expo 86. What's not to like?

Vancouver can't get any more unaffordable than it already is? You just watch! If we get a few sunny days in a row during these Olympics, the part of the world that didn't stay after Expo 86 will turn up, tooth brush in hand, looking for a place to stay. And we'll add another million newcomers to the waterfront. If you sell real estate or designer kitchens, that's a good thing.

There's a school of thought that these Olympics will be our last super spectacle, because there's just no more room to accommodate any more newcomers to Vancouver — in fact, along the whole I-5 corridor.

Truth is, we're addicted to these spectacles. The Olympics will just fuel the urge for more.

This is one big playground. If you add up the new Sea-to-Sky Highway, the new Port Mann Bridge, the billion-dollar convention centre, it's clear we're just getting started. On the day the Olympics begin, I suspect the bright-eyed and bushy-tailed aren't asking themselves: "Was it worth it?"

They're asking: "What's Next?"

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

Views

Spotting a 'growing' problem in homes

Marketplace

Do a quick Google search of "marijuana grow-ops" in Canada, and the headlines pop up. In just the past month: "RCMP estimate as many as 10,000 grow-ops in British Columbia," "Mounties encounter more sophisticated grow-ops," "Halifax police charge six in grow-op." And on they go.

There's no denying, Canada has become a "source country" for marijuana. Meaning, there's lots of money to be made, largely by organized crime.

And where are criminals setting up shop? Step outside your house. Look down the block to the left. Then look to the right. Chances are, a house near you is hiding a grow-op secret.

So what happens when the police bust these homes? Or when the growers figure it's time to move on? Often, these houses get quickly patched up and put on the market, leaving the next homebuyer stuck with expensive problems — like mould, dangerous wiring, and structural damage.

If you think hiring a home inspector is going to protect you, think again. Some are trained to spot the warning signs, but many have no idea what to look for.

So when it comes time to hire a home inspector, there are a few things to ask.

Firstly, what kind of experience does the inspector have? If they don't have much, that's a big red flag.

What kind of training do they have? And is it relevant? That's key — even if someone is an engineer, it doesn't mean they're qualified to inspect a home.

Are they independent? Never hire a home inspector who's been referred by a real estate agent — they may feel obliged to help sell a house in bad condition.

Lastly, can you follow them around during an inspection? A good inspector will encourage you to take part.

Erica Johnson is a journalist and co-host of CBC News: Marketplace, Canada's award-winning consumer affairs show. CBC News: Marketplace airs each Friday night at 8:30 p.m. on CBC Television.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

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Manulife erases year-earlier red ink

Manulife Financial Corp. reported Thursday an $868-million profit in the fourth quarter, reversing a big loss racked up by the Canadian life insurance giant in the same period a year earlier, when it was hurt by weak equity markets. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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Blockbuster earnings

Avatar helps Cineplex net $9.5M in last quarter

A slate of high-profile blockbusters helped Canada's biggest movie theatre exhibitor Cineplex Galaxy Income Fund pull off a stronger fourth quarter and a record year in both box-office receipts and concession sales.

The Toronto-based income trust said Thursday that quarterly earnings were $9.5 million for the period ended Dec. 31, helped by the early results from James Cameron's Avatar, which was playing in theatres during the last 13 days of the quarter.

The quarterly earnings were a 37 per cent increase from $6.9 million a year before.

Avatar was the No. 1 performing film in the quarter, said president and CEO Ellis Jacob.

Since then, Avatar has gone on to become the top grossing feature film of all time.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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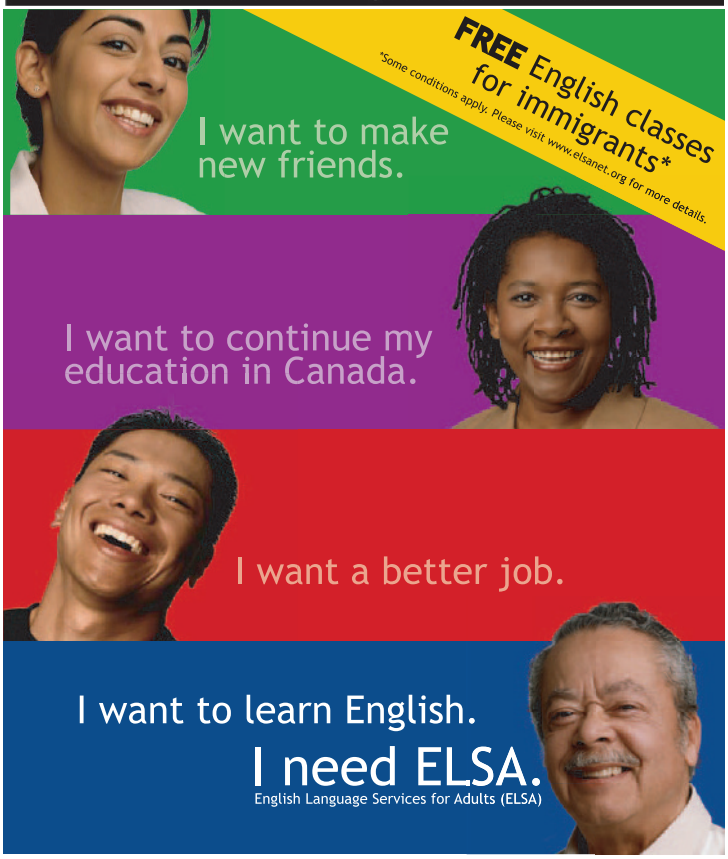
Business in brief

PENSIONS The Canada Pension Plan Fund reported assets of $123.9 billion at the end of its third quarter, as it recovered from a fall to $108.9 billion a year earlier when plummeting stock markets caused a loss of 6.7 per cent.

The fund said it generated $2.2 billion in investment income during the quarter ended Dec. 31. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Athabasca University transfer credits increase academic choices.

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DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A woman looks out the window at Nortel Networks' corporate headquarters in Toronto on Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2009. The company wants the court's approval of a plan to retain employees while it sells off its various business divisions.

Nortel seeks to keep key employees

$92M US retention plan needs court's approval

Nortel Networks Corp. is asking both U.S. and Canadian courts to approve a new $92-million US employee retention plan designed to keep some key staff from quitting their jobs as various business units are sold off.

The former star Canadian telecom equipment vendor said Thursday that buyers for its various business divisions have made it clear they want Nortel to hang onto certain employees to ensure a smooth transition.

The jobs range from the company's finance department to supply chain management, research and development, and human resources, Nortel said in a statement.

A representative for Nortel confirmed that the Toronto-headquartered company will foot about $11 million US of the retention plan bill, representing about 12 per cent of the overall cost.

The remaining 88 per cent would be funded by the companies that buy Nortel's businesses, a stipulation made in the sales agreements.

That makes the plan worth about $91.7 million US overall, with the buyers paying about $80.7 million of that.

Nortel — which has been publicly criticised by former employees and pensioners for its handling of their severance and benefits — said its latest employee retention plan was created with the help of independent advisers who factored in the possibility that more stable and competitive jobs could lure staff away.

"The employees being offered participation in the plan were instrumental in the work completed to date and are critical to fulfilling the remaining tasks," said Nortel chairman David Richardson in a release. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sun Life's profit doubles '08's

INSURANCE Sun Life Financial Inc. says its resurgent Canadian operations helped double its fourth-quarter profit while it worked aggressively to become better known in the key U.S. market.

The major insurance company's overall net income rose to $296 million or 52 cents per diluted share, up from $129 million or 23 cents a share in the fourth quarter of 2008.

Sun Life's Canadian operations produced most of the company's profit in the quarter. SLF Canada generated a $243 million profit during the quarter

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

PROFITS Cigarette maker Philip Morris International said Thursday higher selling prices and the weaker dollar helped its fourth-quarter profit rise five per cent. It also announced a new three-year, $12-billion US share buyback program.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Rachel versus Zenyatta: The race is on

One day after a matchup of horse racing's leading ladies was put on hold, the owner of Oaklawn Park in Hot Springs, Ark., worked out a compromise to match the champion females Rachel and Zenyatta for the first time — in the $5-million US Apple Blossom Invitational on April 9. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

Ticats coach in running for award

Marcel Bellefeuille was recognized Thursday for leading the Hamilton Tiger-Cats to their first home playoff game in eight years, being named as one of three finalists for the CFL's coach of the year award. Joining him are Marc Trestman of the Grey Cup champion Montreal Alouettes, and Ken Miller, who guided the Saskatchewan Roughriders to the West Division title. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Bosh returns home as both a changed man and player

RAPTORS Chris Bosh left Dallas a gangly teen with hopes and dreams but no expectations; no real feel for what the world held for him or how long it would take him to find out where he fit in it.

He returns this weekend not as a conquering hero but close to one, maybe the best basketball player Dallas has ever produced — a dominant, five-time NBA all-star.

Chris Bosh

Not bad for a kid who was not much thicker than a twig when he left Lincoln High School for Georgia Tech eight years ago with no idea what he would morph into and who could only dream about becoming what he's become.

"I was thinking it was two to three years that I was going to be in school," Bosh said this week. "Everything was just hoping and wishing. That was a different mentality. It was like 'maybe I can make the league, I want to do this and maybe I want to do that.' You just hope for everything."

A lot of what Bosh had hoped for has indeed come true for the 25-year-old Raptors power forward. He's about to play in his fourth all-star game and he's won an Olympic gold medal. He's having his best season ever for the Raptors, averaging career highs in points and rebounds and emerging as a dominant force in nearly every game.

He will be one of the most coveted free agents on the market this summer, a fact that has Raptors fans worried about losing another "franchise player." Not bad for a guy who should have as much as a decade left in his career.

"For me, it happened kind of fast, it got accelerated kind of fast," Bosh said.

"I'm still a young dude and I get to do all this stuff. Get to play in the all-star game … be on this (Toronto) team, be a leader.

"It's pretty cool what's happened."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Luongo stifles old friends

NHL RESULTS

Vancouver 3 Florida 0

VS

Roberto Luongo made 31 saves for his fourth shutout of the season, and Alex Burrows and Jannik Hansen scored second-period goals in the Vancouver Canucks' 3-0 victory over the Florida Panthers on Thursday night.

Ryan Kesler added a power-play goal in the third period for the Canucks, 3-3 on the first leg of an NHL-record 14-game road trip. Henrik Sedin, second in the NHL in scoring, had an assist.

Luongo, making his second start in Florida since the Panthers traded him to Vancouver in June 2006, was the beneficiary of some luck, with the Panthers hitting five posts. Florida also wasted a 5-on-3 power play by being called for too many men on the ice.

The Panthers, who have lost five in a row, set a franchise with their 12th consecutive game with two goals or less. Florida has scored a total of 13 goals during that stretch.

Tomas Vokoun, making his 20th consecutive start for the Panthers, stopped 32 shots.

Burrows opened the scoring 1:18 into the second period when he one-timed a feed from Henrik Sedin just before being wrestled to the ice by Florida captain Bryan McCabe.

Hansen added to the lead with a short-handed goal at 18:10.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LYNNE SLADKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vancouver goalie Roberto Luongo, right, makes a save as Florida right wing Radek Dvorak attempts a shot during Thursday's action in Sunrise, Fla. The Panthers traded Luongo to Vancouver in 2006.

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SCOREBOARD

NHL

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
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Ottawa 6 Washington 5
Boston 5 Tampa Bay 4
Carolina 4 Buffalo 3 (OT)
San Jose 3 Detroit 2 (SO)
Dallas 3 Calgary 1
Edmonton at Los Angeles

FRIDAY'S GAMES
VANCOUVER at Columbus
Nashville at New Jersey
Montreal at Philadelphia
N.Y. Rangers at Pittsburgh
Toronto at St. Louis
Atlanta at Minnesota
Phoenix at Colorado

NBA

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Cleveland 115 Orlando 106
San Antonio at Denver

Sports in brief

NBA The NBA says Kobe Bryant of the Los Angeles Lakers and Allen Iverson of the Philadelphia 76ers won't play in the all-star game this weekend.

LABOUR The proposal the NBA sent to the players' association for a new collective bargaining agreement seeks cuts from the biggest superstars down to guys not even in the league yet. A person who has seen the document told The Associated Press on Thursday that first-round picks would have their salaries cut by about one-third and the minimum salary would be reduced by as much as 20 per cent.

UFC Canadians Patrick (The Predator) Cote, Sam (Hands of Stone) Stout, Jonathan (The Road Warrior) Goulet and T.J. Grant will be fighting on friendly turf May 8 when the UFC returns to Canada for UFC 113. The main event of the mixed martial arts card at Montreal's Bell Centre features a rematch between light-heavyweight champion Lyoto (The Dragon) Machida and Mauricio (Shogun) Rua.

BASEBALL Tom Glavine made his retirement official on Thursday when he returned to the Atlanta Braves in a loosely defined new role. Glavine was hired as special assistant to Braves president John Schuerholz. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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What to watch on Friday

Here's a look at some of Friday's TV highlights at the Winter Olympics: 10 a.m. — Ski jumping normal hill individual 1st round (Sportsnet); 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. — Opening ceremonies (CTV, TSN, Sportsnet). THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver Games

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

The waiting is over

When most people hold their breath, they turn blue.

For the millions of Canadians waiting for the start of the 2010 Winter Olympics on Friday, they've been turning red.

The nation has waited for more than 20 years for these Olympics to finally claim a prize denied twice before: An Olympic gold medal on home soil.

In this simple piece of metal are cast the hopes and dreams of the country and by the time the Olympics begin, Canada will be full to bursting with anticipation.

And that's exactly how the Vancouver Olympic organizing committee wants it.

When they bid for the Games in 2003, said VANOC chief executive officer John Furlong, it was with a very distinct vision.

"We thought we could be a nation builder," he said. "The Games could be a moment in time for Canada where every Canadian could feel like they had participated in not just watching this and cheering it on, but in actual fact playing a role in helping it be successful."

Together with the federal government and Canadian Olympic Committee officials, Vancouver organizers ran the ambitious Own the Podium program, a $117 million effort to ensure Canada wins more medals than any other country at these Games.

It was a gutsy move for an organizing committee, whose job in the past has been merely to act as the gracious host for the world and show off a little bit of their country's charm while they're at it.

"It's not something that we recommend an organizing committee do. You have to put resources to that, it costs you money, it costs you resources, it costs you a lot of effort," said Gilbert Felli, the IOC's executive director of Games.

"But they have done it, and they have done it very well and we are very pleased about it."

The goal wasn't just to change the way the country feels about sport, but about itself, said Dave Cobb, deputy executive director for the organizing committee.

"I think it has become accepted in this country that it's all right to say we want to be No. 1," he said.

"But to do it in a way that's not arrogant, not necessarily expected everywhere."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

VANCOUVER GAMES WEEKEND UPDATES!
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Canadian figure skaters Jessica Dube and Bryce Davison

Read their lips: No dubbing

LIP-SYNCH Two years after piped-in vocals from a seven-year-old songbird touched off a controversy at the Beijing Games, Vancouver Olympic organizers are hoping to avoid a similar scandal by being clear about plans for the 2010 opening ceremonies.

Yes, VANOC says, performers will lip-synch at Friday's festivities. But they're also quick to point out the distinction between that method and the dubbing that inspired such outrage in Beijing.

In 2008, a button-cute nine-year-old girl's stirring rendition of Ode to the Motherland was among the highlights of the extravagant opening ceremonies.

But when it was revealed that the vocal was actually delivered by another child, newspapers around the world condemned the fakery.

But David Atkins, executive producer of the Vancouver opening ceremonies, points out that what happened in China was actually dubbing, not lip-synching — the distinction being that lip-synching involves a singer mimicking a backing track of his or her own voice, while dubbing means misrepresenting someone else's voice as the singer's own.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cauldron lighting demands greatness

"They will be iconic figures spanning generations in a land of ice and snow. Included in their ranks will be the defining Olympians of a winter nation ..."

Keep this in mind when thinking about the lighting of the Olympic cauldron.

Few rules govern the process.

In the past we've witnessed an archer, a flying ski jumper and a gymnast circling the roof of a Bird's Nest, as they performed the solemn ritual. There's been more than a little gimmickry reflected in the flames that have presided over previous Olympic gatherings.

Not this time. Only greatness will do.

Here's a theory to fuel the debate as all Canadians rekindle the fires of their Olympic passion. There will be not one, but four torchers on the day and they will concurrently gather around the cauldron to set a celebration of Canadian Olympic history ablaze.

They will be iconic figures spanning generations in a land of ice and snow. Included in their ranks will be the defining Olympians of a winter nation that dearly values its finest skiers and skaters.

"The Great One," will be there.

How could Wayne Gretzky, our seminal hockey player not be? He is synonymous with the game and the country and by assembling the team that delivered the first men's hockey gold in 50 years in 2002, Gretzky forever cemented our loyalty.

Nancy Greene will make the cut.

She spawned a fascination with skiing because of her antics as "The Tiger" and by winning gold at the 1968 Olympics. Every member of this year's alpine team emerged from the Nancy Greene Racing League that keeps the sport strong in Canada.

"Canada's Sweetheart," Barbara Ann Scott will grace the proceedings.

The only Canadian winner of individual figure skating gold, Scott's legacy endures. And she won in 1948 at St. Moritz as the world was healing the wounds of war. Barbara Ann Scott is a lock in my books.

As is speed skater Catriona Le May Doan.

She was known as "The Fastest Woman on Ice," the only Canadian Olympian, winter or summer, to have won gold medals in consecutive Games. Le May Doan's address to the IOC in 2003 swung the vote and helped get Vancouver/Whistler the Olympics in the first place.

Together they'll do it — our greatest skier, figure skater, speed skater and hockey player.

They are four strong symbols of the country and the Olympics who, like moths to the flame, will gather the world around the roaring cauldron's light on opening night.

Gemini Award winner and author Scott Russell is the Host of CBC Sports Weekend seen Saturday afternoons. A 20-year CBC Sports veteran, he has covered a variety of professional and amateur sports including nine Olympic games and numerous world championships.

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Visit kiosks operated by Canadian tourism organizations. The Agritourism Pavilion enjoys a prominent position at the heart of the Place de la Francophonie. Well worth a look!

Presented in collaboration with the SDECB - Société de développement économique de la Colombie-Britannique.

DU 11 AU 28 FÉVRIER DE 11 H À 20 H

Visitez les kiosques d'organismes touristiques canadiens. Le Pavillon agrotouristique occupe une salle bien en vue au cœur de la Place de la Francophonie. De quoi réjouir les curieux.

Présenté en collaboration avec la Société de développement économique de la Colombie-Britannique.

SALON DES COMMUNAUTÉS

FEBRUARY 11TH TO 28TH, STARTING AT 11 A.M.

A place for BC's Francophone Associations.

DU 11 AU 28 FÉVRIER DÈS 11 H

Place aux communautés francophones de la Colombie-Britannique.

CLUB ADRÉNALINE

FEBRUARY 11TH TO 28TH , STARTING AT 11 A.M.

Share your passion for the Olympics and Canada's athletes, and live every moment in French. Join us at Club Adrénaline and follow your favourite Olympic event and meet some of your favourite athletes as they pursue their quest for gold. All the while, enjoy the finest that Canada has to offer in the culinary arts. Don't rush out... after the competition, stay and be entertained by our artists, who are sure to get the crowd going.

DU 11 AU 28 FÉVRIER DÈS 11 H

Passionnés de sport et bons vivants ! Venez suivre les compétitions olympiques en français et rencontrer les héros des Jeux tout en dégustant des plats succulents. Après les compétions, restez faire la fête avec des artistes qui vous feront danser et chanter.

GRAND DÉFILÉ BIG NAZO

FEBRUARY 13TH TO 28TH AT 5:30 P.M.

These weird and wonderful creatures will be appearing daily at Place de la Francophonie 2010!

DU 13 AU 28 FÉVRIER À 17 H 30

Ces créatures bigarrées et étranges feront leur apparition tous les jours à la Place de la Francophonie, dès midi!

LAURÉATS DES JEUX DE LA FRANCOPHONIE

FEBRUARY 11TH TO 28TH, STARTING AT 11 A.M.

Come meet the young artists recently honoured at the 2009 Games of La Francophonie in Beirut. These award winners – in song, storytelling, painting, photography and sculpture – will perform on stage and in workshop.

DU 11 AU 28 FÉVRIER DÈS 11 H 00

Venez à la rencontre de jeunes artistes honorés aux Jeux de la Francophonie de Beyrouth (2009). Ces lauréats des catégories chanson, conte, peinture photographie, et sculpture se produiront sur scène ou en atelier.

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	6 p.m.	6:30 p.m.	7 p.m.	7:30 p.m.
11 FEBRUARY	Opening show "Salut Vancouver !"			
12 FEBRUARY	The Olympic Winter Games Opening Ceremony on big screen *(5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.)*			
13 FEBRUARY	« D'un océan à l'autre »		Victory Ceremony on big screen	
14 FEBRUARY	Pierre Lapointe		Victory Ceremony on big screen	Angé
15 FEBRUARY	Ima		Victory Ceremony on big screen	
16 FEBRUARY	Grand Dérangement		Victory Ceremony on big screen	
17 FEBRUARY	Karkwa		Victory Ceremony on big screen	
18 FEBRUARY	Leoffenders	Vishten	Victory Ceremony on big screen	
19 FEBRUARY	Allez Ouest	Pascal Lejeune	Victory Ceremony on big screen	
20 FEBRUARY	Mary Barry et Mimosa		Victory Ceremony on big screen	Gala Just Louis-Jos Réal Bél
21 FEBRUARY	Ode à l'Acadie		Victory Ceremony on big screen	
22 FEBRUARY	Édith Butler		Victory Ceremony on big screen	
23 FÉVRIER	Anique Granger		Victory Ceremony on big screen	
24 FEBRUARY	Andrea Lindsay	Mighty Popo	Victory Ceremony on big screen	Ar
25 FEBRUARY	Geneviève Toupin	Daniel Roa	Victory Ceremony on big screen	
26 FEBRUARY	La Place des chansonniers		Victory Ceremony on big screen	Ro
27 FEBRUARY	Soir de semaine	Samian	Victory Ceremony on big screen	
28 FEBRUARY	The Olympic Winter Games Closing Ceremony on big screen *(5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.)*			

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8:30 p.m.	9 p.m.	9:30 p.m.	10:30 p.m.	11 p.m.
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	Yelo Molo		Saint-Pierre Malajube	
	Mes Aïeux		DJ Marc Fournier Damien Robitaille	
	« Embrassons la Francophonie » avec lique Kidjo, Valérie Sadjik, Carlos Placeres, Lynda Thalie et Alpha Yaya Diallo		Jam International Misteur Valaire	
	Garou		Anagram La Volée de Castors	
	Carnaval du Monde *ise en scène Isabelle Longnus*		Allez Ouest Valérie Sadjik	
	Porn Flakes avec Marie Mai, Eric Lapointe, Kevin Parent, Jean-François Breau, Melissa Ouimet, et autres invités surprises		Mélissa Ouimet et compagnie Radio Radio	
	Soirée DJ avec Plastic Bertrand, Radio Radio et Misteur Valaire		Lennie Gallant	
	Éric Lapointe		Soirée surprise	
	e pour Rire avec François Massicotte, é Houde, Rachid Badouri, Mike Ward, and, Alexandre Barrette, Charly Pop	Juste pour rire	DJ: Dansons Vancouver!	
	Les Cowboys Fringants		Joe Amouzou et La Ligue Safari	
	Zachary Richard		DJ Bones	
	Les 3 Accords		Mary Barry	
	ndré-Philippe Gagnon		Lisa Leblanc	
	Ariane Moffatt		Mighty Popo	
	obert Charlebois		Jam avec Phil Puxley et les chansonniers de la Colombie-Britannique	
	Alfa Rococo		DJ: Dansons Vancouver!	
	Closing show "Vancouver Salut!"		Jam avec Isabelle Longnus et compagnie	

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KINESPHERE ARTS UMBRELLA

FEBRUARY 20TH AND 21TH AT 2 P.M.

15 dancers and 15 musicians will create a vibrant new work and two memorable afternoons.

20 ET 21 FÉVRIER À 14 H

15 danseurs et 15 musiciens créeront une nouvelle œuvre vibrante au cours de deux après-midis qui seront mémorables.

MIMES EN ACTION

FEBRUARY 13TH, 14TH, 27TH AND 28TH FROM 11 A.M.

These artists have a special style of movement and their body language draws astonishment... and often big laughs.

LES 13, 14, 27 ET 28 FÉVRIER À COMPTER DE 11 H

Attention! Ne ratez pas un geste ni une expression. Ces gens se déplacent à un rythme particulier et leur langage corporel suscite l'ahurissement, souvent des rictus. Leur gestuelle étudiée sait partager le calme.

COUP DE CŒUR

FEBRUARY 14TH FROM 11 A.M.

On Valentine's Day, succumb to the charms of various artists from across La Francophonie. Many delights await you!

LE 14 FÉVRIER DÈS 11 H

En cette journée de la Saint-Valentin, des artistes de plusieurs pays de la Francophonie viennent pour vous séduire. Plusieurs surprises vous attendent.

WORLD CARNIVAL CARNAVAL DU MONDE

FEBRUARY 16TH FROM 7 P.M.

In the streets and on stage, join over a hundred dancers and musicians for a fun and fantastical journey across the five continents with the Carnaval du monde!

LE 16 FÉVRIER À COMPTER DE 19 H

Dans les rues et sur scène, avec plus d'une centaine de danseurs et de musiciens, faites le tour des cinq continents au rythme effréné du grand Carnaval du monde!

VERTIGE AVEC TRANSE EXPRESS

FEBRUARY 14TH, 17TH AT 5 P.M.

This company of street artists, specializes in performing stupendous acrobatic feats. Their amazing talents will leave you breathless! Presentation supported by the French Consulate in Vancouver and the French Embassy in Ottawa.

14 ET 17 FÉVRIER À 17 H

Cette troupe d'artistes de la rue donne dans les acrobaties célestes. Ses membres sauront vous éblouir avec leurs prouesses et leurs tours d'habileté. Spectacles présentés avec le soutien du Consulat général de France à Vancouver et de l'Ambassade de France à Ottawa.

Much heads to Whistler

Starting Friday, MuchMusic will be live nine hours a day from Whistler, with four hours of live coverage and five hours of live hits between 2 and 11 p.m. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Vancouver Games

Canada, U.S. ready to do it all over again

Women's hockey squads set to add new chapter to longstanding rivalry

If the players on the American women's hockey team are out to avenge their loss on home ice to Canada at the 2002 Olympics, they're not saying so.

Canada and the United States are the top-ranked teams in any women's hockey event, and their now 20-year-old rivalry will add another chapter beginning Saturday at the 2010 Winter Games.

The Americans can do in Vancouver what the Canadians did in Salt Lake City eight years ago — get an upset victory in the final in their dreaded rival's rink.

"I'm not focused on paying them back, just on playing my best hockey," three-time Olympian Julie Chiu of the U.S. squad said Thursday. "We lost the gold medal, it happened to be on our soil, and here we want to put ourselves in position to be in the gold medal game.

"Our goal is to win a gold medal, and if it's on Canadian soil, that's what it turns out to be."

"They're not only the defending gold medallist, they're hosting, and it's their national sport — they have a lot on their shoulders. ... We have no pressure."
Team USA's Angela Ruggiero on the Canadian women

It is the fourth time women's hockey will be a medal sport at the Olympics. The Americans beat Canada 3-1 in the first final in Nagano, Japan, in 1998, but Canada answered with a 3-2 victory four years later, despite an American referee who slapped Canada with 13 minor penalties.

GERRY BROOME/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Members of the U.S. women's hockey team look on during a press conference in Vancouver on Thursday. The team plays China on Sunday.

The U.S. hit a speed bump in 2006 in Turin, Italy, losing 3-2 to Sweden in the semifinals. Canada beat the Swedes 4-1 to claim the gold medal and the Americans settled for bronze.

The setback prompted changes in the American team, and 15 first-time Olympians are on the 21-player squad in Vancouver.

They check themselves now before discussing any impending meeting with Canada, knowing there are games that must be won against underdogs first — starting Sunday against China.

"You saw it in the last Games, we overlooked Sweden a bit, so we're focusing one game at a time," said Angela Ruggiero, who is at her fourth Olympics.

Still, Ruggiero is pleased to load any extra pressure she can on Canada.

"They're not only the defending gold medallist, they're hosting, and it's their national sport — they have a lot on their shoulders," she said.

"They can deny it as much as they want, but there's the weight of a nation on them.

"We have no pressure. We know what we have to do to win."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Over 30 doping athletes dropped, none were Canadian

RULES More than 30 athletes have been dropped from Winter Olympic teams from around the world because of doping violations, the World Anti-Doping Agency said Thursday without divulging names, nationalities or sports.

There were no Canadians among them. But in separate anti-doping news Thursday, a Russian female hockey player received an official reprimand for using a banned stimulant.

Svetlana Terenteva tested positive for tuaminoheptane, a stimulant found in decongestant cold medicines. Athletes are allowed to take the drug when they're not competing, but cannot during the official in-competition period. For the Games, that began when the Olympic Village opened Feb. 4.

The International Olympic Committee gave Terenteva the equivalent of a wrist slap.

A statement from the IOC said the athlete admitted to taking a prescription drug called Rhinofluimucil for a bad head cold, but she stopped Feb. 3. Traces of the drug were found in her urine when she was asked to submit to drug testing Feb. 6. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Flame arrives at Vancouver's city hall

RELAY The Olympic flame has arrived at Vancouver's city hall to hundreds of cheering spectators waving small Canadian flags.

Mayor Gregor Robertson was there to welcome the flame to Vancouver just as he was there to usher the flame on to Canadian soil when the run began in October.

Robertson told the crowd the moment they have been waiting for years has finally arrived.

The torch will stay in Vancouver for the rest of the day, eventually reaching a massive community celebration planned in the city's downtown.

On Friday, it will be passed hand-to-hand among celebrities like Arnold Schwarzenegger and Canadian icons like Walter Gretzky, Wayne's father, before the flame is ushered to the stadium where it will light the cauldron to start the Games.

JEFF HOGSON/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Firefighter Brian Bogdanovich carries the Olympic torch to Vancouver City Hall Thursday afternoon. Several hundred people showed up to cheer the torch's arrival.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Thick and messy snow could prove helpful to Canadians

BIATHLON Canada's biathletes are counting on the sport's unpredictability — and a dose of wet, mucky snow — as possible routes to surprise podium finishes as competitions begin this weekend.

Medal hopefuls Jean-Philippe Le Guellec of Quebec City and Zina Kocher of Canmore, Alta., were praising the thick, wet flakes falling on the course Thursday, hoping it becomes one more element to help Canada crack European domination of biathlon.

Le Guellec, 24, is known to "float" over the snow when it's thick and messy, and he's backed by a waxing technician team that is arguably the most experienced in the world on Callaghan Valley's warm and variable conditions.

Not since 1994's Games in Lillehammer, when Myriam Bedard pulled off two golds and a bronze, has Canada had such opportunities for a medal in this shooting and skiing sport, he argues.

"It's definitely a possibility. The trail here and the way the whole system is set up, anything can happen for anyone," he said after training in the moist snow that fell throughout Thursday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fagan pledges 'medal bonus' for kids
Snowboarder Rob Fagan, 33, from Cranbrook, B.C., has pledged to give half of any "medal bonus" he earns to KidSport, a B.C.-based organization that provides support to kids who can't otherwise afford to play organized sport. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver Games

Getting ready for the Games

Athletes, fans make final preparations before opening ceremonies

PHOTO: THE CANADIAN PRESS/JEFF MCINTOSH

Regan Lauscher, from Red Deer, Alta., speeds down the track during women's luge training Thursday at the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Winter Games in Whistler, B.C.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ADRIAN WYLD

ABOVE: Canadian speed-skater Kristina Groves, from Ottawa, skates during a training session at the XXI Olympic Winter Games in Richmond, B.C., Thursday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ROBERT SKINNER

Canadian Vaughn Chipeur skates during a practice session at the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver Thursday.

RICHARD LAUTENS/TORONTO STAR

Charles Yan 8, front, and his friend Henry Yu 8 pretend to ride a bobsleigh that is a street display in Robson Square a day before the Olympics.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Matt Lauer, host of NBC's Today Show, lights an Olympic torch from a BCIT journalism student in Burnaby on Thursday.

Weather will likely determine watchability of ski cross debut

SKI CROSS One of the Olympics' must-see events might end up being a lot less fun to watch.

As crews continue to patch up a Cypress Mountain ski-cross course battered by the elements, members of the Canadian team said Thursday they're prepared for any weather conditions they might face. Yet, with more rain forecast for the weekend, temperatures remaining mild and little snow expected between now and the start of the competition on Feb. 21, there's a chance that ski cross's highly-anticipated Olympic debut will fizzle out.

"It will definitely depend on the weather," said Canadian medal hopeful Ashleigh McIvor. "Chances are, it's not going to be bright and sunny, with bulletproof ice. You'll see the course deteriorate fairly significantly in comparison to injected courses in Europe, so you'll see holes developing in the corners."

"Chances are, it's not going to be bright and sunny, with bulletproof ice."
Ashleigh McIvor, medal hopeful

Ski cross — a competition featuring four to six skiers hurtling down a course featuring bumps, jumps and turns — is hoping to use the Olympic exposure to boost its rapidly growing profile. That could prove challenging if the Cypress course doesn't get some help from Mother Nature.

McIvor, the defending world champion, pointed out that a lack of snow would prevent the International Ski Federation from being able to adequately fix trouble spots on the course. That could result in more wipeouts than usual.

Should the current weather trends continue, first-time viewers would be subjected to races where few risks are taken, or worse — a parade of skiers carted from the course on stretchers.

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Song buyers believe in Yanofsky

Sixteen-year-old songbird Nikki Yanofsky's rendition of the official song of the 2010 Games, "I Believe," has hit No. 1 on the iTunes Canada Top Songs chart. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver Games

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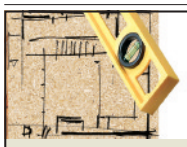

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Former men's downhill champ pulling for Austrian

Reigning Olympic men's downhill champion Antoine Deneriaz is predicting a big-name winner to follow his own surprise success.

Deneriaz favours his former rivals Didier Cuche, Bode Miller and Michael Walchhofer for the marquee medal race of the alpine skiing program.

"I think it will be a really good and great Olympic champion," said the 33-year-old Frenchman, who retired the year after his upset victory at the 2006 Turin Games. "It's a nice slope, it's not that easy. It's always difficult to go fast, it's a lot of turns and nice jumps."

Deneriaz is at Whistler with France's national broadcaster to help call the race, which is scheduled for Saturday.

"It's strange to be here four years after," he said of the Olympic atmosphere. "It brings good memories, it's good to be back."

Deneriaz believes Cuche will not be troubled by a broken right thumb. "He wants it so much that he will not care about it," he said.

And he has a special wish for Walchhofer.

The outgoing champion denied the Austrian veteran a career-defining Olympic title when victory seemed assured four years ago.

Deneriaz, wearing bib No. 30, swept down the mountain at Sestriere to beat Walchhofer by 0.72 seconds, a stunning margin for the sport's elite event.

"I hope for him too," said Deneriaz, who had a three-year winless streak in World Cup races before striking gold in Turin. "But there's a lot of racers who really deserve it."

Deneriaz also believes Manuel Osborne-Paradis of Invermere, B.C., could exploit Canada's home-field advantage at Whistler.

The Dave Murray course has not staged a top-level downhill since 1995 and Deneriaz, like most European skiers, has never raced on it.

Deneriaz visited the Olympic venue earlier this season, but typically capricious Pacific Coast weather kept him off the track.

"It was always snowing and bad weather so I never raced," the Frenchman recalled.

Deneriaz is one of nine past and present Olympians seeking election to become a member of the International Olympic Committee for the next eight years.

All competitors at the Vancouver Games can vote in a poll to choose two members of the IOC's athletes' commission. The IOC will announce the results Feb. 24. THE CANADIAN PRESS

JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Michael Janyk of Whistler chats with a volunteer following his downhill training run on Thursday.

Vonn catches break with cancelled run

WHISTLER Each of Thursday's steps was seen as a sign that, yes, Lindsey Vonn might very well compete in five Olympic races, after all, and might be able to think once again about medals, not medicine.

Painkillers and a Novocaine-like numbing cream for the American's badly bruised right shin? They seemed to dull the aching.

Wearing ski boots, something painful and depressing every time she tried it last week? She yanked them on and did a course inspection.

Actually skiing down a hill for the first time since getting injured Feb. 2, albeit only in a free run and not on the official course? It hurt, sure, but was the most exciting step of all, one that convinced Vonn she was ready to take part in the opening women's Olympic downhill training session later Thursday.

"I was happy to be back on snow today," said Vonn, who lives and trains in Vail, Colo.

"My shin was still very painful, but I feel like the injury is finally progressing a bit.

"I am always disappointed when a training run is cancelled, but in this situation I definitely welcome the extra day to heal."

Before her injury became known Wednesday, Vonn was widely considered a candidate to win perhaps three or four medals.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GIOVANNI AULETTA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

American skier Lindsey Vonn took to the hill Thursday for the first time in nine days.

Weather cancels women's training

WHISTLER Mother Nature played havoc with the Olympic downhill training schedule for the second straight day Thursday as a thick blanket of fog forced the cancellation of the women's session after only one skier made it down the hill. Olympic rules dictate there needs to be at least one training run with all skiers to proceed with Sunday's super-combined race. Organizers are expected to schedule another training run Friday on Franz's Run, a part of the resort named after Franz Wilhelmsen, an original founder of Whistler Mountain. A men's downhill run was cancelled Wednesday because of fog.

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Olympic guard dogs get Canadian-made protection
Man's best friend forms part of the security team for the Games, and he's being outfitted in some serious Canadian-made armour to protect his hide from everything from bullets to Molotov cocktails. Guard dogs at the Vancouver Winter Olympics will all be sporting customized vests. THE CANADIAN PRESS

'No pressure' for Norway

Norway has a couple of things Team Canada won't when the teams face one another in the Olympic men's hockey tournament — a carpenter, teacher and a building superintendent.

Few things better illustrate the wide difference between the squads than an analysis of what the players do to earn money. Team Canada's 23-man roster is earning more than $120 million US in salary from their respective NHL clubs this season; Norway's lineup features a handful of guys that play in the semi-pro domestic league and still hold down other jobs.

"It's a totally different thing," said Pal Grotnes, Norway's goalie and a carpenter by trade. "We practise in the evening and work during the day."

Another difference between the teams is the way they're preparing to play one another in the opening game of the Olympic tournament on Tuesday.

The Norwegians are already practising together at Hockey Canada Place — save for Detroit Red Wings defenceman Ole Kristian Tollefsen, their lone NHLer — and beat the UBC Thunderbirds in an exhibition game earlier this week.

The Canadians are still scattered around North America playing games for their NHL teams, and will have just one practice together as a group before the tournament opener.

It's a game that is being just as heavily anticipated by the Norwegians as it is by the hosts.

"It's great, it can't be better," said Norwegian forward Tore Vikingstad. "We have no pressure at all. We're just going to go out and try to play our best game, hopefully give them a little bit of fight.

"No one expects anything from us against Canada."

Norwegian coach Roy Johansen believes his team has greatly benefited from participating in the top level of the IIHF World Hockey Championship for the past four years.

His plan against Team Canada will be similar to the one every underdog typically employs — play a tight defensive game, hope to score at least once and hang on for a narrow victory. "We have to be ready, have good defence and hopefully the goalie will have a great day," said Johansen.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

"It's great, it can't be better. We have no pressure at all ... No one expects anything from us against Canada."
Tore Vikingstad, Team Norway forward

Women's hockey **Say cheese!**

SCOTT GARDNER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Russian women's Olympic ice hockey player Yulia Deulina takes photos of teammates at the conclusion of the Russian team's photo session at UBC Thunderbird Arena Thursday.

Vonn's cheesy cure for injury

THERAPY Cheese wraps, urine poultices, cell cures — when it comes to injuries, elite athletes can be game for some pretty outthere therapies.

That propensity came to light this week when U.S. Alpine skiing star Lindsey Vonn, widely predicted to be the "It Girl" of the Vancouver Games, announced she had been wrapping her right leg in a European curd cheese to treat a deep bruise that could stand between her and Olympic glory.

The therapy, from which the U.S. Olympic team's chief doctor quickly distanced himself, was administered in Austria. That's where Vonn sustained her injury and where the curd cheese, topfen, is apparently hailed for anti-inflammatory properties.

There doesn't appear to be any scientific evidence to suggest the cheese has those or any other medicinal powers.

PubMed.gov, an online database of published medical studies maintained by the U.S. National Library of Medicine, draws a blank in a search for "topfen."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Cypress **Let there be snow!**

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tractors move snow delivered by dump trucks at Cypress Mountain in West Vancouver, Thursday prior to the start of the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Winter Games.

Cancer survivor to watch end of torch relay in style

RACE Executives from companies sponsoring the Games get primo spots in the torch relay, especially in the final stretch.

McDonald's global president Don Thompson was one of those VIPs, but passed on his spot Thursday evening to 14-year-old cancer survivor Cianna Pawluck.

Pawluck, of Telkwa, B.C., stayed at the Ronald McDonald House in Vancouver in 2007 while being treated for Wilms' tumour, a form of kidney cancer.

She still stays at the residence for patients and their families every six months for checkups.

"I decided that I had six knee surgeries so it probably wasn't such a good idea ... I was hoping they would pass it along to someone who would really have fun and benefit from it," said Thompson.

If you've gotta be here, but aren't, here's the next best thing.

A live webcam feed showing media conferences, athlete interviews and other events in the International Media Centre in Vancouver is now up and running at www.yougottabehere.com.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Winger Peltonen set for fourth Olympics

HOCKEY Ville Peltonen has been carrying the flag for Finnish hockey for a long time, so it only made sense that he was chosen to bring his country's banner into B.C. Place stadium.

The veteran winger will kick off his fourth Olympic Games by carrying the Finnish flag at the opening ceremonies on Friday, an honour he places at the top of everything he's achieved as an athlete.

"It is very big for me," Peltonen said after practice Thursday.

"I have been a sports fan since I was a little kid, watching the Olympics. I am sure when I am carrying that flag I will remember all the memories I had from watching the Olympics and playing in them."

It's difficult to measure exactly how much Peltonen has meant to Finnish hockey. He's appeared in 13 IIHF World Hockey Championships and is among the country's all-time leaders with 243 games in a national team jersey.

Despite that, he remains largely unknown to most North American hockey fans, having carved out a journeyman NHL career with stops in San Jose, Nashville and Florida.

However, at home he's seen by many as the face of a Finnish team that features the likes of Teemu Selanne, Saku Koivu and Miikka Kiprusoff.

"He has a big role for our hockey," said Finnish GM Jari Kurri. "It's leadership, it's experience. He's been around. And he gets better and better when the games get tougher and tougher."

The 36-year-old Peltonen loves the atmosphere of an Olympics. He's previously competed at the Games in Lillehammer, Nagano and Turin — only missing Salt Lake City in 2002 after suffering an injury just before the tournament

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Finnish flagbearer

- Peltonen is one of six men's hockey players who will carry his country's flag during Friday's opening ceremonies: Jaromir Jagr (Czech Republic), Ziggy Palffy (Slovakia), Oleg Antonenko (Belarus), Alexei Morozov (Russia) and Tommy Jakobsen (Norway) will also have that honour.

Allegations against Germans dismissed

The Olympic skeleton sled-magnet controversy has been demagnetized. The sport's governing body announced Thursday it's dismissing allegations made by Canadian skeleton slider Jeff Pain that the Germans are cheating by putting magnets near the runners of their sleds. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver Games

Swagger, pride to be on display

Expect to see some Canadian swagger at the Winter Olympics on Friday night.

The last of more than 80 participating countries to march into B.C. Place during the opening ceremonies (CTV, TSN, Sportsnet, 6 p.m. PT), Canada has never been this prepared to win medals at the Olympics.

While Canadian officials insisted Thursday their athletes will respect their competition, they can't help but be confident in a way they've never been before.

"We're going to be well-dressed, we're going to look good and we're going to feel good." Jayna Hefford, Canadian Olympian

"We're going to be well-dressed, we're going to look good and we're going to feel good," says hockey team forward Jayna Hefford of Kingston, Ont. "We're going to walk in and I think you are going to see that pride."

The Canadian team of 206 athletes have wanted for nothing in their preparation for the Games. Own The Podium is the $117-million, five-year program established in 2004, so Canadians would win more medals than any other country at their own Games.

Canada heads into these Games with about 60 athletes considered potential medallists. OTP's primary goal was to convert that potential into medals. Canada's athletes were provided with full medical teams, more training and competition opportunities and high-tech equipment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Women's Canadian Champion Joannie Rochette performs during the Exhibition Gala after the 2010 BMO Canadian Figure Skating Championships in January.

Choreographer has heavy presence in 2010 Games

SKATING Joannie Rochette glides along the ice, her mouth turned down in a frown of frustration.

She's travelled from Quebec to a rink north of Toronto to work with renowned choreographer Lori Nichol barely a month out from the Vancouver Olympics, and one section of her long program just isn't feeling right.

Golden resume

- Nichol worked with Jamie Sale and David Pelletier, choreographing their Love Story program that earned the Canadians gold at the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics.

Like a golfer works on his swing, Rochette skates through the same sequence of movements for a good half an hour.

When the reigning world silver medallist takes the ice at the Pacific Coliseum, this portion of her program will comprise all of six seconds of the total four minutes.

But with Olympic glory on the line, Rochette and Nichol are leaving not even those few seconds to chance.

Nichol, 46, is the choreographer behind many of the world's top skaters, who flock to the Canadian hoping her innovative touch might propel them to gold.

Ask how many programs she's choreographed this season, and she answers with a laugh and a shrug of the shoulders. She's not quite sure.

"It's probably better I don't count," Nichol says. "I'm trying not to think in those terms, just making sure the work is good, that I've done my job which is to emphasize their strengths."

Her work will be well-represented in Vancouver. Nichol choreographs both Canadian star Patrick Chan and his U.S. rival Evan Lysacek, Rochette and her American counterparts Rachael Flatt and Mirai Nagasu, along with veteran Chinese pairs team Shen Xue and Zhao Hongbo, among others.

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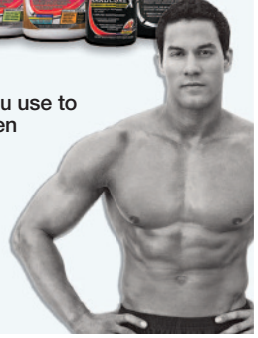

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Movies&Entertainment

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Movies

He's back

Pg 30

Leonardo DiCaprio and, as Leo puts it, 'master filmmaker' Martin Scorsese team up for a fourth time with Shutter Island.

Movies Pg 31

Too many stars clutter up Valentine's Day plot.

Music Pg 36

Wilco reflects on Wilco (the album) one year later.

Television Pg 38

Stephen Colbert ready for his Olympians to compete.

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Movies

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

More than thrills

Shutter takes DiCaprio to psychological depths

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

The last time James Cameron made the most successful film of all time, he didn't emerge as the project's most famous face.

That fame fell on Leonardo DiCaprio, who was always uneasy about his superstar status.

In the decade since Titanic, DiCaprio has gone out of his way to embrace projects that force audiences to think of him as an actor rather than a celebrity. His primary partner in crime during this period has been legendary director Martin Scorsese.

The pair have made four films together, the most recent of which is Shutter Island (opening next week). DiCaprio loves working with the director because of his deep appreciation for actors.

"The one thing that I don't think people understand about Scorsese is how much he believes in his actors," DiCaprio told Metro. "He's a master filmmaker, but he always lets the actors dictate what he puts up on the screen."

Following their Oscar-winning collaboration The Departed, Scorsese and Dicaprio decided to turn their attention to a thriller by Mystic River author Dennis Lehane.

Shutter Island opens next Friday

On paper, Shutter Island seems like little more than a genre movie about a detective investigating a twisted mental institution. However, there are more than just thrills in the film — even if Scorsese and DiCaprio weren't completely conscious of it when they signed on.

On the web

- For movie trailers, screen times, photos — and to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies

"Once we started to unravel who this man was and and the nature of what was going on, it took us to places that we never could have foreseen," the actor said.

As DiCaprio worked on the film, the complexities of the project and his character began to peel away like an onion.

"When you read something a character can seem one way, but until you're actually on set doing it there's really no way to fully understand him," admitted DiCaprio.

Actor Leonardo DiCaprio, left, and director Martin Scorsese team up for the fourth time in the psychological thriller Shutter Island, which opens in theatres next Friday.

Careful not to give away the film's surprises, he continued, "We suddenly realized that we had to push certain boundaries that we didn't think we needed to initially. Everything changed and there were a few weeks that I have to say were some of the most hardcore filming experiences I've ever had. It was almost like reliving trauma.

"I don't say that sort of stuff very often because it always seems superficial when you're talking about a movie, but we really went to places unearthing who this man was that I didn't think we would get to."

Shutter Island should be a pleasant surprise for audiences, offering all of the suspense and entertainment expected from a thriller but with a psychological depth that isn't quite as common.

It's what attracted DiCaprio to the project and what he hopes audiences will appreciate.

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Escape From New York remake
New Line appears ready to commit to getting the remake of John Carpenter's cult sci-fi action picture Escape From New York back on its feet and striding on the path to our screens, with a script by Allan Loeb. **EMPIREONLINE.COM**

Movies

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

V-Day a little crowded

Valentine's Day offers a few compelling stories, some not

Valentine's **Day**
Director: Garry Marshall
Stars: Julia Roberts, Jamie Foxx, Anne Hathaway, Jessica Biel
Classification: STC
Rating: ●●●

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

For his new romantic omnibus Valentine's Day, director Garry Marshall brings together an overwhelmingly impressive cast, including Julia Roberts, Ashton Kutcher, Anne Hathaway, Jamie Foxx, Jennifer Garner, Patrick Dempsey, Jessica Biel, Bradley Cooper, Jessica Alba, Topher Grace, Shirley MacLaine, Taylor Swift and Taylor Lautner.

It's an embarrassment of A-list riches. But so many big stars playing so many characters with so many Valentine's Day-related issues to work out makes the movie feel more than a little crowded. And while there's certainly something for everyone in the interconnecting story lines, Valentine's Day suffers from a supreme lack of focus.

At the core of the film are a few very compelling stories played out by very charming actors, but there's too much else going on for the film to stop and give them the time they need. The hopeless romantic florist (Kutcher) oblivious to his fiancée's (Alba) cold feet, his best friend (Garner) discovering the hard way that her perfect boyfriend (Dempsey) isn't so perfect — these work. But Swift and Lautner hog up far too much screen time as dim high schoolers with nothing to contribute in a plot line that seems cynically designed to pull in their respective fans.

And a note to the filmmakers: When you have a character who can't get a date and uses chocolate as a coping mechanism, don't cast Jessica Biel. No one will believe it.

On the web

- For movie trailers, screen times, photos — and to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies

Jessica Biel, left, and Jaime Foxx, centre front, star in Garry Marshall's impressively casted romantic comedy Valentine's Day.

Jennifer Garner's character, Julia, in Valentine's Day discovers the hard way that her boyfriend isn't so perfect.

Percy Jackson: A pricey, miscast mess

Movie **review**

Percy Jackson And The Olympians: **The Lightning Thief**
Director: Chris Columbus
Stars: Alexandra Daddario, Steve Coogan, Logan Lerman
Classification: STC
Rating: ●●

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

Uma Thurman overacts in her role as Medusa in Percy Jackson And The Olympians.

REVIEW Hollywood has been paying a lot of attention to young adult fantasy novels following the success of the Harry Potter and Twilight franchises.

Percy Jackson And The Olympians: The Lightning Thief is the latest attempt at a young adult cash cow and one that probably won't continue beyond a single movie. If the unwieldy title doesn't scare away viewers, then the poorly paced screenplay and celebrity miscasting should do the trick. A great deal of money was clearly spent trying to launch this franchise, but sadly it all went to waste.

The film is about a young boy who discovers he is the son of the Greek God Poseidon, leading the teen into a secret society in the woods that inexplicably seems to be under constant training for battle. The combination of teen fantasy and Greek mythology may have seemed exciting on the page, but feels undeniably silly onscreen.

It certainly doesn't help that in an attempt to lock up big names for sequels a few well-known actors have been painfully miscast. Uma Thurman manages to outdo her overacting in Batman And Robin as Medusa and Pierce Brosnan dons some facial hair as an unlikely centaur. But worst of all is Steve Coogan who inexplicably plays the villain Hades, which is sure to get some unintentional laughs from fans of the British comedian.

Populist director Chris Columbus helmed this adaptation and while he can please mass audiences with a good script (like Home Alone or the first Harry Potter), the man is out of his depth with lousy writing. The screenplay feels like little more than a highlight reel of action scenes from the novel with little attention paid to characterization. At best, this is an impressive special effects reel. At worst, it's an overly expensive direct-to-DVD fantasy film.

Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Obvious plot sinks Wolfman

Movie **review**

The **Wolfman**

Director: Joe Johnston
Stars: : Benicio Del Toro, Anthony Hopkins, Emily Blunt
Classification: STC
Rating: ●●

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

Wolfman stars Benicio Del Toro, a talented lead who doesn't shine due to the movie's poor script.

The blockbuster Wolfman remake arrives on screens this weekend after countless delays (including the original director quitting shortly before shooting began).

That's never a good sign, but with a cast that includes Benicio Del Toro and Anthony Hopkins along with some stunning Gothic production design, it at least looked like the project had a shot at working.

Sadly, it doesn't. Though the filmmakers get a number of elements right, they can all be admired on the poster. Once the movie starts playing, disappointment sets in.

The failure of this edition of The Wolfman comes down to the writing.

The simple story about an involuntary and tortured monster has been expanded into a ludicrous murder mystery that barely hangs together.

Benicio Del Toro's troubled protagonist returns home following the death of his brother, greeted by an impossibly evil father (Anthony Hopkins, introduced with a silly suspicious grin that he doesn't drop until the credits roll) and the news that a werewolf is stocking his town.

Unsurprisingly Del Toro is bitten by the monster and becomes prone to full moon rampages.

Admittedly whenever the Wolfman appears there's fun to be had, but tragically most of the movie is wasted unraveling a rather obvious murder plot (hint: The villain is the most famous actor with the least to do).

The make-up effects by Oscar-winner Rick Baker are impressive as are all of the expensive period costumes and sets.

However, style doesn't make a movie.

Convoluted storytelling kills the project, which is too bad because the talented cast could have elevated the material if they'd been given a chance.

Del Toro should have been an ideal lead, but the script requires him to appear stoic in every scene with no growth, making him a little more than a whiney Wolfman.

By the time the werewolf wrestling match climax hits the screen, it's hard to even care about what's happening. The Wolfman deserves better than this. Even Teen Wolf was more satisfying.

• For a trailer of Wolfman, photos and screen times, visit metronews.ca/movies

Autism documentary The Horse Boy lacks flow

The Horse **Boy**

Director: Michael Orion Scott
Stars: Rupert Isaacson
Classification: STC
Rating: ●●●

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

REVIEW When little Rowan Isaacson was diagnosed with autism, his parents Rupert and Kristin were shocked by medical practitioners' inability to explain the condition.

Instead of becoming frustrated by their son's inconsolable tantrums, the well-traveled couple saw Rowan's autism as a "gateway to adventure" and set off to Mongolia where Rupert (who previously witnessed shamanic healing as a journalist) sought refuge for his son in the nation where shamanism is a "state religion."

As such, The Horse Boy documents the family's extraordinary journey riding horseback across the Mongolian plains, enduring bizarre shamanic rituals and visiting "healing springs."

The result is stunning, even if the film's insights are not.

With some pacing problems and little tension, The Horse Boy succeeds more as a testament to parental love than it does as cinematic drama.

However, with a charming trio of loving subjects and some slyly-placed experts discussing the nature of autism, The Horse Boy will surely enlighten audiences if not fully answer the elusive questions that plagued the Isaacson family in the first place.

A scene from The Horse Boy.

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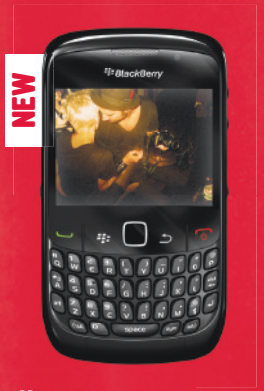

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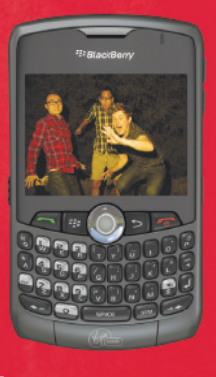

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New Line eyes Lampoon reboot

New Line is pushing ahead with its quest to reboot the much-loved National Lampoon's Vacation franchise. The studio has hired writing team Jonathan Goldstein and John Francis Daley to write a new Vacation flick. **EMPIREONLINE.COM**

Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Columbus full of surprises

Comedy (the Home Alone franchise as an example) is just one genre director Chris Columbus has set his hand to. His resume boasts a wealth of feature film experience.

InFocus

Richard Crouse

metronews.ca/infocus

At first glance director Chris Columbus's new film seems like a call back to his earlier work. This weekend's Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief is based on a popular book series about a teenager with special powers who must battle supernatural forces.

Can you say Harry Potter? Sure, just don't say it near the filmmaker, who directed the first two films in the J.K. Rowling series and produced the third.

"It's nothing like Harry Potter," he told the New Zealand Herald. "I wouldn't have gotten involved in a picture that was too similar to Potter. I hadn't seen a film like this before and that was the reason I wanted to do it."

In fact, other than with sequels, he rarely repeats himself. His resume as a writer (Gremlins), producer (Jingle All the Way) and director (Rent) reveals a variety of styles and topics. He's no stranger to comedy, having helmed the Home Alone movies; no stranger to romance, as he proved with Only the Lonely, no stranger to teen fare or musicals and in between those he's covered most other genres.

Nestled among his blockbusters are a number of deserving lesser known titles.

In the comedy Heartbreak Hotel he added a chapter to the mythology of Elvis Presley. Starring Tuesday Weld — The King's Wild in the Country co-star — and David Keith as Elvis, the movie centers on Johnny Wolfe's (Charlie Schlatter) scheme to kidnap the singer and bring him home to cheer up his ailing mom (Weld).

It's very silly but Elvis fans will enjoy the sly tributes sprinkled throughout — Weld's motel is called The Flaming Star — and a soundtrack ripe with new versions of Elvis chestnuts like That's All Right and Hound Dog performed by Keith David and polka kings The Bavarian Village Band.

As a writer Columbus prepped himself for eventually helming the Potter movies by penning Young Sherlock Holmes and the Pyramid of Fear.

Directed by Barry Levinson, the story of young Holmes and Watson meeting and solving a boarding school mystery is primarily notable as the first movie to feature a completely computer-generated character in the form of a knight created from a stained glass window.

Columbus is a restless storyteller who can't be pinned down. He's someone who blazes his own path and tales chances. I mean who else would cast Uma Thurman as a snake-haired Medusa?

Richard Crouse's Movie Show can be seen every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. on the E! Channel; mrchaos33@hotmail.com.

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This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

Screen Times

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., FEB. 12 TO THURS., FEB. 18. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

VANCOUVER

DUNBAR THEATRE
4555 Dunbar Street, 604-222-2991

Valentine's Day (PG) Fri 7-9:35 Sat-Sun 1:30-4-7-9:35 Mon-Thu 7-9:35

FIFTH AVENUE CINEMAS
2110 Burrard Street, 604-734-7469

Art & Copy (STC) Thu 7
Crazy Heart (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4-7-9:25
Invictus (PG) Fri-Tue 1-6:40 Wed-Thu 1
It's Complicated (PG) Fri-Thu 3:50-9:20
The Last Station (14A) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:10-6:50-9:15
Up in the Air (PG) Fri-Thu 2-4:30-7:20-9:35
Valentine's Day (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:10-9:45

GRANVILLE
855 Granville St., 604-684-4000

The Blind Side (PG) Fri 6:45-9:35 Sat-Sun 1:05-3:55-6:45-9:35 Mon-Thu 5:35-8:25
Daybreakers (18A) Fri 7:10-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:20-7:10-9:40 Mon-Thu 6-8:35
An Education (PG) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:25-4:15-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:10
Invictus (PG) Fri 6:40-9:30 Sat-Sun 1-3:50-6:40-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:20
Leap Year (PG) Fri 6:55-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:10-6:55-9:45 Mon-Thu 5:55-8:15
Legion (14A) Fri 7:05-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:15-4:05-7:05-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:45-8:05
Precious: Based on the Novel ``Push'' by Sapphire (14A) Fri 6:50-9:25 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:50-9:25 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:30

HOLLYWOOD THEATRE
hollywoodtheatre.ca

Cold Souls (PG) Fri 9:50 Sat 3:50 Sun 3:50-9:50 Mon-Thu 9:50
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri 7:30 Sat 1:30 Sun 1:30-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30

OAKRIDGE
650 West 41st Ave., 604-263-1944

Dear John (PG) DTS Digital Fri 7:15-9:45 DTS Digital Sat-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:15-9:45 DTS Digital Mon-Thu 5:15-7:45
Valentine's Day (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Fri 7-10 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Sat-Sun 1-4-7-10 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Mon-Thu 5-8
The Wolfman (18A) DTS Digital, No Passes Fri 7:30-10:15 DTS Digital, No Passes Sat-Sun 1:15-4:15-7:30-10:15 DTS Digital, No Passes Mon-Thu 5:30-8:15

PACIFIC CINEMATHEQUE
cinematheque.bc.ca

0.9 Ampere (STC) Wed 7:30
Angel of Fire (STC) Sat 9 Sun 5
Benjamin's Woman (STC) Fri 9 Sun 7
Castle of Purity (STC) Sat 5 Tue 8:45
The Criminal Life of Archibaldo de la Cruz (STC) Tue 7
Cronos (STC) Sat 7:15
Lola (STC) Mon 8:50 Thu 9
Love in the Time of Hysteria (STC) Fri 7 Thu 8:50
Salón México (STC) Mon 7
Two Crimes (STC) Sun 8:45

PARK THEATRE
3440 Cambie Street, 604-876-2747

Avatar 3D (14A) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:30-7:10:10

RIDGE THEATRE
3131 Arbutus Street, 604-738-6311

The Horse Boy (PG) Fri 4-7-9 Sat-Sun 2-4-7-9 Mon-Thu 4-7-9
L'Elsir D' Amore (STC) A.M. Sat 10

RIO ON BROADWAY
1660 E. Broadway, riotheatre.ca

Boogie Nights (STC) Fri 12
Saturday Night Fever (STC) Fri
Valentine's Day (PG) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 4:30-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 7-9:30

SCOTIABANK THEATRE VANCOUVER
900 Burrard St., 604-630-1407

Avatar 3D (14A) Fri-Sat 11:30-11:45-3-3:30-6:40-7:10-10:30-10:45-12 Sun 11:30-11:45-3-3:30-6:40-7:10-10:30-10:45 Mon-Tue 11:45-1:30-3:30-5:30-7:10-9:30-10:45 Wed-Thu 11:45-1:30-3:30-7:10-9:30-10:45
Celine: Through the Eyes of the World (G) Wed-Thu 7
Dear John (PG) Fri-Sat 12:45-3:50-7:9:45-12 Sun-Thu 12:45-3:50-7-9:45
Edge of Darkness (14A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:10-7:40-10:40
Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-3:20-6:45-9:30
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Fri-Thu 12:3:15-7:15-10:35
Up in the Air (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-4-7:30-10:10
The Wolfman (18A) No Passes Fri-Sat 1:3:40-7:20-10:20-12:15 No Passes Sun-Thu 1:3:40-7:20-10:20 No Passes Fri-Thu 12:15:3:10-6:50-9:50

TINSELTOWN
cinemark.com

The Book of Eli (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 2:05-4:50-7:35-10:15
Crazy Heart (PG) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:25-7:25-10:05
From Paris With Love (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 2:45-5:10-7:30-9:50
The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus (PG) Fri-Thu 1:50-4:35-7:40-10:25
It's Complicated (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25-7:10
The Last Station (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 2:15-5:05-7:45-10:20
Love & Savagery (STC) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:30-4:45-7:50-10:10
The Lovely Bones (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 4:10-9:55
A Single Man (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:20-7:15
Valentine's Day (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 2-3:5-6:05-8-9 No Passes Fri-Thu 1-4-7-10
When in Rome (G) Fri-Thu 2:20-4:40-7:05-9:25
The White Ribbon (PG) Fri-Thu 3:50-9:40

VANCITY THEATRE
vifc.org

Slovak Representative House (STC) Fri-Thu

VAN EAST CINEMA
2290 Commercial Drive, 604-251-1313
vaneast.com

The Wolfman (18A) Fri 7-9:05 Sat-Sun 4:55-7-9:05 Mon-Thu 7-9:05

NORTH SHORE

ESPLANADE 6
200 West Esplanade, 604-983-2762

Celine: Through the Eyes of the World (G) No Passes Wed-Thu 7:30
Dear John (PG) Fri 7-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:10-7-9:40 Mon-Thu 7-9:40
Edge of Darkness (14A) Fri 7:10-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:20-7:10-9:50 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:50
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Fri 6:40-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-6:40-9:50 Mon-Tue 6:40-9:50
Up in the Air (PG) Fri 7:30-10 Sat-Sun 1-3:30-7:30-10 Mon-Thu 7:30-10
Valentine's Day (PG) No Passes Fri 6:30-7:20-9:20-10:10 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:40-1:10-3:40-4:30-6:30-7:20-9:20-10:10 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:30-7:20-9:20-10:10

PARK & TILFORD
333 Brooksbank Ave., 604-985-3911

Avatar 3D (14A) Fri 6:30-9:50 Sat-Sun 12-3:20-6:40-10:10 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:50
Crazy Heart (PG) Fri 6:50-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:50-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:30 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
From Paris With Love (14A) Fri 7:10-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:10-3:10-7:10-9:40 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:40
It's Complicated (PG) Fri-Thu 10
Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) No Passes Fri 7-9:50 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:40-3:40-7-9:50 No Passes Mon-Thu 7-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1
Tooth Fairy (G) Fri 7:20 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:7:20 Mon-Thu 7:20
The Wolfman (18A) No Passes Fri 7:30-10:20 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-7:30-10:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:30-10:20

RICHMOND

RICHMOND CENTRE 6
6551 #3 Road, 604-273-7173

Avatar (14A) Fri-Thu 7:30
Dear John (PG) Fri 4:30-7:05-9:40 Sat 1:40-4:30-7:05-9:40 Sun 1:40-4:30-7:05 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:05
Legion (14A) Fri-Sat 9:35 Sun-Thu 7:15
Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) No Passes Fri 4:15-7-9:45 No Passes Sat 1:30-4:15-7-9:45 No Passes Sun 1:30-4:15-7 No Passes Mon-Thu 4:15-7
The Spy Next Door (PG) Fri 4:30-7:15 Sat 1:50-4:30-7:15 Sun 1:50-4:30 Mon-Thu 4:30
Tooth Fairy (G) Fri 4:25 Sat-Sun 1:45-4:25 Mon-Thu 4:25
Valentine's Day (PG) No Passes Fri 4:20-7:10-9:55 No Passes Sat 1:35-4:20-7:10-9:55 No Passes Sun 1:35-4:20-7:10 No Passes Mon-Thu 4:20-7:10
The Wolfman (18A) No Passes Fri 4:40-7:20-9:50 No Passes Sat 1:55-4:40-7:20-9:50 No Passes Sun 1:55-4:40-7:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 4:40-7:20

SILVERCITY RIVERPORT
14211 Entertainment Way, 604-272-7280

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Fri-Thu 11:30
Avatar 3D (14A) Fri-Tue 11:15-1:30-2:55-5:30-6:40-9:30-10:35 Wed-Thu 11:15-1:30-2:55-6:40-9:45-10:35
Avatar: An IMAX 3D Experience (14A) Fri 11:30-3-6:30-10 Sat 10-1:20-4:45-8:10-11:30 Sun-Thu 11:30-3-6:30-10
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Tue 3:05-6:35 Wed 7 Thu 3:05-6:35
The Book of Eli (14A) Fri 12:45-9:25 Sat-Thu 9:25
Celine: Through the Eyes of the World (G) Wed-Thu 7
CTV Olympic Games Broadcast (STC) Fri 4 Sat-Sun 10 Mon-Thu 12
Dear John (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:55-7:20-10:10
Edge of Darkness (14A) Fri-Tue 1:30-4:25-7:25-10:25 Wed 1:30-4:25-10:25 Thu 1:30-4:25-7:25-10:25
From Paris With Love (14A) Fri-Thu 1-3:45-6:50-9:40
The Lovely Bones (PG) Fri-Thu 11:35
My Name Is Khan (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:15-4:20-8:15
Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 11:45-1:15-3:30-4:15-7:7:30-10-10:30 No Passes Thu 11:45-3:30-4:15-7:7:30-10-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Fri-Thu 11:25-9:50
Sukhmani - Hope for Life (PG) Fri 11:55-3:15-6:25-10:35 Sat 11:55-3:15-6:25-10:20 Sun-Thu 11:55-3:15-6:25-10:35
Tooth Fairy (G) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:35-6:30-9:30
Up in the Air (PG) Fri-Thu 3:10-6:40-10:05
Valentine's Day (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 11:30-12:30-3-4-6:45-7:15-9:45-10:15 No Passes Thu 11:30-3-4-6:45-7:15-9:45-10:15 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1
When in Rome (G) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:05-7:35-10:20
The Wolfman (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-2-3:20-4:45-6:55-7:45-9:55-10:35

BURNABY

DOLPHIN CINEMAS
4555 E. Hastings St., 604-293-0332

Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Sun 2-4:30-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 7-9:20
Valentine's Day (PG) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Sun 2-4:30-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 7-9:20

SILVERCITY METROPOLIS
4700 Kingsway Ave., 604-435-7474

Avatar 3D (14A) Fri-Tue 11:30-11:45-3-3:15-6:40-7:10-10:10-10:30 Wed-Thu 11:30-11:45-3-3:15-7-10:10-10:30
Celine: Through the Eyes of the World (G) Wed-Thu 7
Dear John (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-4-6:55-9:45
Edge of Darkness (14A) Fri-Thu 12-3:30-7:05-10:05
From Paris With Love (14A) Fri-Thu 12:05-2:20-4:45-7:30-10:15
Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:10-3:20-6:35-9:40
The Spy Next Door (PG) Fri-Tue 11:50-2:10-4:35-7:10-9:35 Wed 11:50-2:10-4:35-9:50 Thu 11:50-2:10-4:35-7:10-9:35
Valentine's Day (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:20-3:40-6:45-10
When in Rome (G) Fri-Thu 11:35-2-4:25-6:50-9:30
The Wolfman (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-3:50-7:25-10:25

STATION SQUARE
220-6200 McKay Ave., 604-434-7711

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Sat-Sun 1:30-4:30
The Book of Eli (14A) Fri 4:05-7:05-10:05 Sat 1:05-4:05-7:05-10:05 Sun 1:05-4:05-7:05 Mon-Thu 4:05-7:05
An Education (PG) Fri 4:25-7:25-10:25 Sat 1:20-4:20-7:25-10:25 Sun 1:20-4:20-7:25 Mon-Thu 4:25-7:25
Legion (14A) Fri 4:30-7:30-10:30 Sat 1:25-4:25-7:30-10:30 Sun 1:25-4:25-7:30 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:30
Precious: Based on the Novel ``Push'' by Sapphire (14A) Fri 4:10-7:10-10:10 Sat 7:10-10:10 Sun 7:10 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:10
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Fri 4-7:10 Sat 1-4-7:10 Sun 1-4-7 Mon-Thu 4-7
Tooth Fairy (G) Fri 4:20-7:20-10:20 Sat 1:15-4:15-7:20-10:20 Sun 1:15-4:15-7:20 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:20
Up in the Air (PG) Fri 4:15-7:15-10:15 Sat 1:10-4:10-7:15-10:15 Sun 1:10-4:10-7:15 Mon-Thu 4:15-7:15

NEW WEST/ COQUITLAM

SILVERCITY COQUITLAM
170 Schoolhouse Street, 604-523-2911

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:35
Avatar 3D (14A) Fri-Thu 11:55-2-3:45-6:15-7:45-10
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Thu 3:25-6:50-10:10
The Book of Eli (14A) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:40-7:35-10:35
Crazy Heart (PG) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:35-7:35-10:30
CTV Olympic Games Broadcast (STC) Fri 4 Sat-Sun 10 Mon-Thu 12
Dear John (PG) Fri-Thu 12:05-3:30-6:45-7:20-9:45-10:20
Edge of Darkness (14A) Fri-Thu 1-4:10-7:15-10:30
From Paris With Love (14A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:40-8:10-45
It's Complicated (PG) Fri 12:40-9:40 Sat-Thu 9:40
The Lovely Bones (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40
Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:15-3:20-6:40-9:35 No Passes Fri-Tue 1:10-4:20-7:20-10:15 No Passes Wed 4:20-7:20-10:15 No Passes Thu 1:10-4:20-7:20-10:15 No Passes Wed 1
The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri-Thu 12:20
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Fri-Thu 12:55-4-7:30-10:35
Tooth Fairy (G) Fri-Thu 1-3:50-6:55-9:55
Up in the Air (PG) Fri-Thu 4:05-7:45-10:25
Valentine's Day (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 12-12:35-3-3:55-7-7:30-10-10:40 No Passes Wed 12-3-3:55-7-7:30-10-10:40 No Passes Thu 12-12:35-3-3:55-7-7:30-10-10:40 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
When in Rome (G) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:20-7:25-9:50
The Wolfman (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:10-12:45-3:10-3:50-6:45-7:25-9:40-10:05

SURREY/WHITE ROCK/LANGLEY

CLOVA
5732-176th St., Surrey, 604-541-9527

Leap Year (PG) Fri-Thu 9:05
Precious: Based on the Novel ``Push'' by Sapphire (14A) Fri-Thu 7
The Princess and the Frog (G) Sat-Sun 1:30

HOLLYWOOD 3 CINEMA
7125-138th Street, Surrey, 604-592-4441

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Fri 4:30-6:30 Sat-Sun 12:30-2:30-4:30-6:30 Mon-Thu 4:30-6:30
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Thu 8:30
The Book of Eli (14A) Fri-Thu 9:25
The Hurt Locker (14A) Fri-Thu 4:30
The Lovely Bones (PG) Fri-Thu 6:55
The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri 4:30 Sat-Sun 2:30-4:30 Mon-Thu 4:30
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Fri 6:30-8:55 Sat-Sun 12-6:30-8:55 Mon-Thu 6:30-8:55
The Spy Next Door (PG) Sat-Sun 2:30
Twilight (PG) Sat-Sun 12

STRAWBERRY HILL GRANDE
12161-72nd Ave, Surrey, 604-501-9400

Avatar 3D (14A) Fri-Thu 12-3:30-7:10:30
CTV Olympic Games Broadcast (STC) Fri 4 Sat-Sun 10 Mon-Thu 12
Dear John (PG) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:35-7:30-10:15
Edge of Darkness (14A) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:45-6:55-9:50
From Paris With Love (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:25-7:05-9:40
Legion (14A) Fri-Wed 9:30 Thu 10:15
My Name Is Khan (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:20-4:20-8
Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 1-4:10-7:10-10 No Passes Wed 4:10-7:10-10 No Passes Thu 1-4:10-7:10-10 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
Sukhmani - Hope for Life (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-3:40-7:20-10:25
Tooth Fairy (G) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:15-6:50-9:20
Valentine's Day (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:30-4:05-7:15-10:20 No Passes Wed 4:05-7:15-10:20 No Passes Thu 12:30-4:05-7:15-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
The Wolfman (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:40-3:50-7:25-10:10

STUDIO 12 GUILDFORD
15051-101st Ave, Surrey, 604-581-1176

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20
Avatar 3D (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 2-6:30-10:15
The Book of Eli (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 6:40-9:35
Celine: Through the Eyes of the World (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Digital Presentation, No Passes, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 7:30
Dear John (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:05-3:55-6:50-9:30
Edge of Darkness (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:50-3:50-7:05-9:55
From Paris With Love (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:35-4:25-7:20-9:45
My Name Is Khan (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, Sub-Titled Fri-Thu 1-4:30-8
Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:10-4-7:10-10
Tooth Fairy (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-4:10-6:55-9:25
Valentine's Day (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Digital Presentation, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Digital Presentation, No Passes, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:45-3:45
The Wolfman (18A) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:55-1:25-4:05-4:35-7:7:30-9:50-10:05

RIALTO
criterionheatres.com

Crazy Heart (PG) Fri 7-9:10 Sat-Sun 2-7-9:10 Mon-Thu 7-9:10
The Young Victoria (G) Fri 7:15-9:15 Sat-Sun 2:15-7:15-9:15 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:15

CRITERION 4 WHITE ROCK
criteriontheatres.com

Dear John (PG) Fri 7:20-9:35 Sat-Sun 2:20-7:20-9:35 Mon-Tue 7:20-9:35 Wed 9:35 Thu 7:20-9:35
Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) Fri 7:10-9:30 Sat-Sun 2:10-7:10-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:30
Valentine's Day (PG) Fri 7-9:25 Sat-Sun 2-7-9:25 Mon-Thu 7-9:25
The Wolfman (18A) Fri 7:30-9:40 Sat-Sun 2:30-7:30-9:40 Mon-Thu 7:30-9:40

COLOSSUS LANGLEY
20090-91A Ave, Langley, 604-513-8747

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Fri-Thu 11:40-2-4:30
Avatar 3D (14A) Fri-Tue 11:11:45-2:30-3:20-6:15-7:10:15-10:45 Wed-Thu 11:11:45-2:30-3:20-7:10:15-10:45
Avatar: An IMAX 3D Experience (14A) Fri 11:30-3-6:30-10 Sat 10-1:20-4:45-8:10-11:30 Sun-Thu 11:30-3-6:30-10
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Thu 12:15-7:10
The Book of Eli (14A) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:45-7:40-10:25
Celine: Through the Eyes of the World (G) Wed-Thu 7
Crazy Heart (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-4-6:45-9:45
CTV Olympic Games Broadcast (STC) Fri 4 Sat-Sun 10 Mon-Thu 12
Dear John (PG) Fri-Thu 12:3-3:25-7:15-7:45-9:55-10:35
Edge of Darkness (14A) Fri-Thu 12:55-4:05-7:20-10:20
From Paris With Love (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:40-7:25-10:15
Legion (14A) Fri 12:10-10:10 Sat-Thu 10:10
Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) No Passes Fri-Tue 12:05-12:35-3:35-4:10-6:55-7:25-9:40-10:20 No Passes Wed 12:05-12:35-4:10-6:55-7:25-9:40-10:20 No Passes Thu 12:05-12:35-3:35-4:10-6:55-7:25-9:40-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 3
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Fri-Thu 3:40-10:30
Tooth Fairy (G) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:55-6:50-9:30
Valentine's Day (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-3:50-7:35-10:35 No Passes Fri-Tue 11:55-3-7:05-10 No Passes Wed 11:55-7:05-10 No Passes Thu 11:55-3-7:05-10 No Passes Wed 3
Wolfman (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-1-3:30-4-7:05-7:40-10-10:30

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The Billboard 200

1. Need You Now, Lady Antebellum, left; 2. Rebirth, Little Wayne; 3. Who I Am, Nick Jonas & The Administration; 4. The Fame, Lady Gaga; 5.2010 Grammy Nominees, Various Artists. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Music

Wilco finds comfort zone

Chicago rock outfit ready to help usher in Olympics

ROB MCMAHON
for Metro Canada

When Wilco (The Album) came out last year, frontman Jeff Tweedy was quoted as saying it "sounds like Wilco."

According to guitarist Nels Cline, pinning down that Wilco sound didn't come from reflections on past melodies or any deep immersion in the band's back catalogue. Instead, the band worked from pretty solidly established song structures, adding improvisational elements and details. The result — a collection of songs that closely matched their demo versions.

"Jeff encouraged us to do as many different things as we could ... (and despite each song's) stylistic divergences, overdubs and flights of fancy, they all ended up grounded in his voice and sensibility," said Cline, ahead of the band's appearance at the Vancouver Olympics this Saturday.

Cline explained this process was very different from that used for 2007's Sky Blue Sky, which developed more gradually and organically. The many creative twists and turns in writing that album may be the result of a new incarnation of group members easing into the same musical headspace. During studio sessions, Tweedy would bring in records he was listening to — "super obscure underground '70s records," says Kline. After hearing those ideas, the band began jamming out improvisations built around fairly loosely organized song structures that changed throughout the process.

Wilco kicks off a Canadian tour with an appearance at the Winter Olympics this weekend.

"During (Sky Blue Sky) we thought more about arrangement and form ... (We would) change the key on a melody and go and redo a song completely," said Cline. "Jeff (approached the songs) in a much more skeletal way, and was very interested in input from the band in terms of melody and arrangement ... The Album is maybe more focused on songs as songs, and not arrangements."

For example, the recorded version of Bull Black Nova is actually the song's demo version, with added overdubs and re-recorded vocals. In contrast, Impossible Germany from Sky Blue Sky was rewritten several times in order to re-incorporate Cline's guitar solo as a core element in the song. Even though it was introduced late in the process, that solo became the song's centerpiece. And now, Cline rips into an extended, improvised version of it during live performances.

"Jeff dragged that solo out of me — and it's become a written solo now," said Cline. "Jeff liked the demo so much he asked me to learn it, so I play the same solo every time (we play live), and then go off as much as I want to."

"Jeff (Tweedy) encouraged us to do as many different things as we could ... they all ended up grounded in his voice and sensibility." Nels Cline

In Concert

- Wilco plays David Lam Park (181 Roundhouse Mews) Saturday at 7 p.m.

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Secret plan to ban your Internet access

SoundCheck

Back in November, I wrote about ACTA, the secret anti-counterfeiting trademark agreement involving Canada, the U.S., Mexico, the EU and nine other countries. Representatives have been meeting behind closed doors for two years to hammer out a treaty that will inevitably affect every single person on the Internet.

Yet there has been almost zero transparency. None of the draft texts have been made public and those outside the inner circle are bound by tough non-disclosure agreements.

This doesn't mean there haven't been some leaks.

Aside from measures to fight counterfeiting, there have been discussions about a worldwide "three strikes" rule. Accused (not caught, proven or convicted) of file-sharing music three times by an aggrieved rights holder, and you're banned from the Internet. For life.

Internet service providers and telecoms would be liable for copyright infringements by their users. To avoid prosecution, that means they'll have to find some way of sniffing through all the data — YOUR data — that passes through their pipes. And even though you may have a legitimate right to, say, ship a music file from point A to point B, there's the potential for red flags at the ISP. Accused three times (not caught, proven or convicted) and you're done. Not just with your current ISP, either. They'll be required by international law to publish your name to an Internet no-fly list will prevent you from ever having an Internet account in your name ever again.

And it gets better. Within the document is a second called Border Measures. There's the real possibility that some border guard will have the power to make you prove all those music files on that iPhone in your pocket are, in fact, not pirated. Can't do it? Bye-bye, iPhone. Oh, and you could be charged and fined.

This is more than just file-sharing for stopping fake Louis Vuitton bags. It's about privacy, civil liberties, and legitimate use of the Internet for commerce and innovation.

And because this is an international treaty, it'll just be rubber-stamped into law. No public debate.

Be informed. Read what the Electronic Frontier Foundations says at eff.org/issues/acta.

The Ongoing History Of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com

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Amazon.ca's bestselling albums
1. Soldier of Love, Sade; 2. Canadian Tenors, Canadian Tenors; 3. I Dreamed a Dream, Susan Boyle; 4. Recollection, K.D. Lang; 5. Need You Now, Lady Antebellum. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Music

Turning the Page

A Singer Must Die is the title of Steven Page's first solo album.

GRAHAM ROCKINGHAM
for Metro Canada

A Singer Must Die. The title of Steven Page's new CD may make Barenaked Ladies' fans cringe.

Is Page talking about himself?

Or is it that other guy, Ed Robertson, the one who's still with the Ladies, the one Page used to duet with on If I Had A Million Dollars.

Neither, actually. It's simply the name of a Leonard Cohen song that Page covers on the new CD (which lands in stores Tuesday). Nothing more. Nothing less.

A singer Must Die is out on Tuesday

Well, OK, maybe Page is being a tad mischievous. It's his nature.

"There was a certain amount of irony that wasn't missed when we were choosing that title," Page says from his new home near Syracuse, N.Y.

"There's a sense of drama and irony, as well as a certain amount of pathos. Self-deprecation has always been my stock in trade. I didn't want people to think that I had changed that much."

A Singer Must Die. The Cohen song is one of ten covers on the album, which Page has recorded with Andrew Burashko and his classical chamber ensemble, the Art of Time. The album is a mixed bag of songs that include Jane Siberry's The Taxi Ride, Rufus Wainwright's Foolish Love, Elvis Costello's I Want You and Radiohead's Paranoid Android.

It's not the type of record most artists would use to launch a new solo career. It's not a pop record designed for air play.

Timing, however, didn't give Page much of an option. The album and its accompanying tour was planned before the infamous coke bust that would result in Page leaving the Barenaked Ladies, the multi-platinum selling band which he co-founded and named.

Back when it was conceived in the spring of 2008, A Singer Must Die was supposed to be just a side project. At the time Burashko's ensemble was doing a series of concerts with guest vocalists. The Page concert went so well live, they decided to record a studio version and release a CD.

Then came the coke bust. It happened near Syracuse at the apartment of Page's girlfriend Christine Benedicto. They got off with little more than a rap on the knuckles from the trial judge.

Publicity-wise, however, the timing was horrendous. Barenaked Ladies had just released a children's CD. Page announced his departure from the band and his side project with Burashko turned into the first album of his new solo career.

For fans who were hoping for something more traditional than A Singer Must Die, don't worry. That will come soon. Page has another CD of original songs ready for release in May or June. And, according to Page, it is a "big, shiny, fun, pop record."

The back-to-back release of these CDs coincides, more or less, with the first Pageless offering from the Barenaked Ladies. The band's new album, All in Good Time, will be available in March.

"We don't talk often," Page says of his former bandmates. "I saw Kevin (Hearn) two weeks ago. I talked to Ed maybe two months ago on the phone. We call and check in but we don't talk often.

"I think there is a certain healthy sense of competition between the two camps, as well, right now."

Last run for Friday Night Lights

The fifth season of Friday Night Lights will be its last, multiple sources confirm. Sources say the NBC has informed the show's cast that they're free to pursue other work after production on season 5 wraps in June. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Television

Baby girl upstages Idol

REALITY TV The American Idol group auditions proved to be a drama of two dads. When yesterday's episode had ended, Michael Lynche, known as "Big Mike," was the proud father of a newborn baby girl and had made it into the next round of the singing contest.

But Seth Rollins of Lakeland, Fla., who had hoped to make a better life for his autistic son and who performed with Lynche and two other contestants, was cut by the judges.

Lynche, of Astoria, N.Y., missed out on being at his wife's side as she delivered their daughter and instead monitored the birth by phone.

"Hi, baby girl," he heard his wife say, then dropped his head into his arms. With his fellow group members standing by, he turned back to the competition. "Still got work to do," the new father said.

Lynche ended up among the 71 contestants moving on to the next round, out of 96 that started the night. A number of those cut left in tears.

"This was a dream, you know, and I was really hoping it would come true," said ousted Mark La Briola.

New judge Ellen DeGeneres and Simon Cowell, who had played nicely on Tuesday's show, had a brief clash of personalities Wednesday.

When a contestant complained vaguely of "hardship," DeGeneres helpfully tried to explain that a member of the singer's group had quit abruptly before their audition.

"That happens in life. It's not a hardship. It's rubbish,'' Cowell replied tartly, in familiar fashion.

There were a few of the contestant meltdowns and tantrums that marked group performances of seasons past, with one group alleging another swiped their a cappella approach to Lady GaGa's Bad Romance.

Both groups advanced to the next round, although DeGeneres described the accusers' stage outfits as "surreal."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ready to take on Canada

Colbert's got his game on

Like many of the athletes vying for gold in Vancouver, Stephen Colbert's Olympic training has been eventful.

He has already auditioned for the U.S. bobsled, skating and curling teams. He has angered a sizable portion of Canada. And he has landed on the cover of Sports Illustrated's Olympic preview.

Now, he's preparing for the big event. While The Colbert Report is in repeats next week, the comedian will be in Vancouver for the first week of the Olympics. He'll be there recording a wealth of material for his show (to air beginning Feb. 22), attending events, conducting interviews and doing a kind of half-show from a stage set up outside the Olympic centre.

"We'll bring snow because I don't think Vancouver has any," he said in an interview, taking a swipe at the city's sometimes watery precipitation.

Just as he has inserted himself into big events such as the 2008 election (during which he was briefly and illegitimately a candidate) and the Iraq war (he did a week of shows from Baghdad in 2009), Colbert has made himself a key figure for the XXI Olympic Games, which start Friday.

"I'm really in awe of what [the athletes] do and I want to be there to support them.."
Stephen Colbert

When the U.S. Speedskating team lost its primary sponsor last fall (the Dutch bank DSB went bankrupt), the Report stepped in with a novel idea.

The show's ardent fans had previously raised sizable amounts of money for charity, and the show suggested that the "Colbert Nation" could sponsor the skaters.

Last November Colbert, right, announced his show had become the primary sponsor of the U.S. Speedskating team.

Fan donations filled the vacancy by raising more than $300,000. "Colbert Nation'' is branded on the team's suits and Colbert has had an active relationship with the squad.

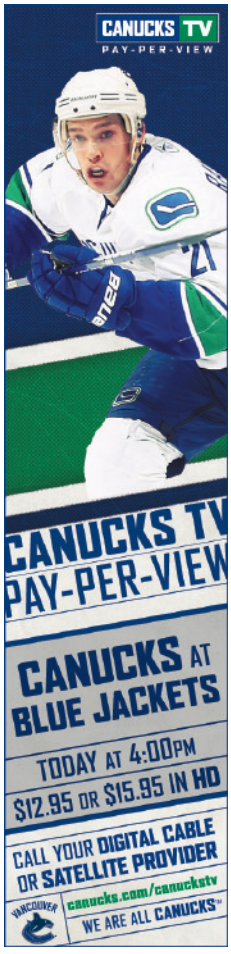
Many Canadians, though, have been put off by Colbert's frequent mockery.

He has called Canadians "syrup-suckers," "Saskatche-whiners." and said Canadian history is a euphemism for a sex act so depraved, he can't say it on TV. But now that foreign athletes have received more ice time in Vancouver, Colbert says, "I've forgiven Canada. . . . I'm there to celebrate Canada at this point."

But for all of his satire, it's clear Colbert has a genuine love of the Olympics.

"It's a festival,'' he says. "What a great, rare honour it's been to be helpful in any way to these beautiful athletes. I'm really in awe of what they do and I want to be there to support them.''

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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No decision on Jackson medical records

LEGAL A judge in Los Angeles will rule next week on whether Michael Jackson's father can obtain medical records related to the death of his superstar son.

Joe Jackson's attorney, Brian Oxman, sought the records as part of an effort to obtain a monthly stipend for the Jackson family patriarch. He says his client has a right to know more about his son's death and the records could also be used to pursue a wrongful death lawsuit. Jackson's estate opposed releasing the records. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Austrian filmmakers have Oscar ambitions

AWARDS Austria, known more for Mozart than movies, is hoping to make it big at the Oscars next month.

The birthplace of action megastar Arnold Schwarzenegger is also increasingly a film awards juggernaut. The three Academy Award nominations for Austrians announced this month are a source of pride for the small country, whose films and actors are getting renewed attention from Oscar after watching from the wings for years.

"Anybody who knows a little bit about films knows about Austria," said Geoff Andrew, an expert at the British Film Institute.

Christoph Waltz, the front-runner for best supporting actor for Quentin Tarantino's Inglourious Basterds, is perhaps the most high-profile of the Austrians in contention at the March 7 ceremony.

Director Michael Haneke and cinematographer Christian Berger, meanwhile, are in the running for best foreign language film and best cinematography for their work on The White Ribbon, a disturbing black-and-white drama submitted by neighbouring Germany, presenting a sombre study of a troubled village on the eve of the First World War.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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In brief

WE WANT BETTY More than 188,000 people on Facebook are urging Saturday Night Live to make Betty White a host. The 88-year-old actress was recently given a lifetime achievement award at the Screen Actors Guild Awards and starred in a Super Bowl commercial for Snickers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Television

Canada is ready to win, Williams

The true keeper of Canada's Olympic flame is no secret. It is Brian Williams, prime-time host of Vancouver 2010 Winter Games.

Vancouver will mark the Winnipeg native's 13th Olympics — 11th as broadcast host.

Williams says he is astounded by how far Canada has come, both as a team of athletes and as a host nation.

"It's a different feeling this time," says Williams. "At Calgary and Montreal you got the feeling the athletes were just happy to be home. Here they are happy to be home but they expect to win at home. It's a very different mindset."

Canada won just five medals in 1988 in Calgary and, as in Montreal in 1976, no gold. But in Turin at the last Winter Games, Canada won 24 medals. Only Germany and the United States did better.

"People stop me in the street and say, 'Do you really think we can finish first overall?'" he says. Williams thinks that might be a stretch but he sees Canada in the top three at least.

Even the Americans are taking note of the changes, says Williams.

"USA Today said last week (Canadians are) no longer our friendly northern neighbours, they want to beat us."

He singles out Erik Guay in the men's downhill and Jennifer Heil in moguls freestyle as two Canadians who could strike gold as early as Saturday.

The medal count could soar, he says. "You'll see numbers we've never dreamed of."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CTV's Brian Williams

FRIDAY 2/12/10

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3 CBC	Wheel	Jeopardy! (N)	Rick Mercer	Marketplace	CBC News: the fifth estate		CBC News: The National (N)		City-lan
	250	321	9 CTV	(4:00) XXI Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony. (Live) (CC)								CTV News (N)
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Spider-Man 2 ★★★ (2004, Action) Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst, James Franco. (CC)						News
	256	389	12 VI	TMZ (N)	Access H.	Ghost Whisperer (CC)		Mambo Italiano ★★ (2003) Luke Kirby, Ginette Reno. (CC)				A News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	Murdoch Mysteries		Glenn Martin	Glenn Martin	Mantracker Steve and Jeff.		Murdoch Mysteries		EP Daily
	-	-	14 CW	The Office	The Office	Smallville "Warrior" (N)		Smallville "Hex" (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Surviving Survivor (CC)		Undercover Boss (CC)		NUMB3RS "Hangman"		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	Olympic Zone	XXI Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony. From Vancouver, B.C. Parade of Nations; lighting of the Olympic Cauldron.							
	288	380	24 ABC	Wheel	Jeopardy! (N)	Spider-Man 2 ★★★ (2004, Action) Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst. Premiere. (CC)						News
	290	382	28 FOX	Two Men	Two Men	House "Brave Heart" (CC)		Kitchen Nightmares (CC)		News	Most Wanted	Family Guy
news	502	390	23 NW	Google World (CC)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		Google World (CC)		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
family sports	407	419	22 RSP	XXI Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony.			Olympics	Hockey	Hockey	Hockey	Hockey	Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	(6:00) XXI Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony. (Live)								SportsCentre
	552	543	25 YTV	Just My Luck ★ (2006) Lindsay Lohan, Chris Pine. (CC)					Fries That?	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol
	555	545	50 TEL	Batman	Wolverine	Justice	Star Wars	Futurama	King of Hill	Hellboy: Blood and Iron (2007) (CC)		
	268	354	5 KNO	From Harling Point (CC)		Poirot "Yellow Iris" (N)		Dalziel and Pascoe (CC)		Warrendale ★★★★ (1967) Premiere. (CC)		
cable variety	575	583	20 CMT	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	CMT Greatest: Love Songs		Funniest Home Videos		Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)	Jim
	615	520	31 A&E	Criminal Minds (CC)		Criminal Minds (CC)		(:01) Criminal Minds (CC)		(:01) Criminal Minds (CC)		Criminal
	521	560	34 TLC	Say Yes	Say Yes	What Not to Wear "Lisa"		Say Yes	Say Yes	What Not to Wear "Ariel"		What Not
	616	522	39 SHO	Relic Hunter (CC)		Lava Storm (2008, Suspense) Valérie Valois. (CC)				Kenny vs.	Kenny	Trailer Park
	294	650	47 TBS	(6:00) The Heartbreak Kid ★★ (2007)		(:25) My Best Friend's Wedding ★★★ (1997)					(:25) Ghost ★★★ (1990)	
	603	561	69 FN	Diners	Diners	Ramsay's Kitchen		Diners	Unwrapped	Bobby Flay	Bobby Flay	Diners
	-	-	95 AMC	League	Alien 3 ★★★ (1992) Sigourney Weaver, Charles S. Dutton. (CC)					Alien Resurrection ★★ (1997) (CC)		
	320	621	60 CEN	(6:10) Fugitive Pieces ★★		Management ★★ (2008) Jennifer Aniston.			(:35) Camille (2007) Sienna Miller. Premiere.			Love-Cholera
	581	566	101 MTV	Teen Mom (CC)		1 girl 5 gays	Over Bolts	Buried	Life of Ryan	Teen Mom (CC)		1 girl 5 gays

SATURDAY 2/13/10

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3 CBC	NHL Hockey Anaheim Ducks at Calgary Flames. (Live) (CC)					HNIC: After Hours		News	HNIC Replay
	250	321	9 CTV	(3:00) XXI Winter Olympics Skiing, Freestyle Skiing, Short Track Speed Skating, Hockey, Medal Ceremonies. (Live) (CC)								CTV News (N)
	252	336	11 GTV	renegade	Jane Show	A Valentine Carol (2007, Romance) Emma Caulfield. (CC)				Love-Death	G-Spot (CC)	News Final
	256	389	12 VI	New Canoe	Island Week	Movie (CC)				Stargate Atlantis		Bravo!FACT
	253	359	13 CITY	Cooking	Amazing	Glenn Martin	Out There	Julie Walking Home ★★ (2002) Miranda Otto. (CC) (DVS)				Crusoe
	-	-	14 CW	The Office	The Office	Radio ★★ (2003, Drama) Cuba Gooding Jr., Ed Harris.				CSI: NY Severed body parts.		CSI: Miami
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment Tonight (N)		Wedding Crashers ★★★ (2005) Owen Wilson. (CC)				(:15) 48 Hours Mystery (N)		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	Backroads	Olympic Zone	XXI Winter Olympics Speed Skating, Freestyle Skiing, Skiing. (Same-day Tape) (CC)						
	288	380	24 ABC	Fortune	Jeopardy!	Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets ★★★ (2002, Fantasy) Daniel Radcliffe. (CC)						News
	290	382	28 FOX	Two Men	Two Men	Cops (N) (PA)	Cops (CC)	America's Most Wanted		News	Most Wanted	Wanda Sykes
news	502	390	23 NW	Mamma Mia Story (CC)		National	Issue	National	Mansbridge	Mamma Mia Story (CC)		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Newsroom		Black in America "Tomorrow's Leaders"				Newsroom		Black, Amer.
family sports	407	419	22 RSP	XXI Winter Olympics					XXI Winter Olympics Skiing.		Olympics	Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	(3:00) XXI Winter Olympics Ski Jumping, Speed Skating, Freestyle Skiing, Hockey. (Live)								SportsCentre
	552	543	25 YTV	Zeke's Pad	Prank Patrol	Funniest Home Videos		That's-Weird	Prank Patrol	Survive This	Ghost	Adrenaline
	555	545	50 TEL	Bratz ★ (2007) Nathalia Ramos, Janel Parrish. Premiere.				Futurama	King of Hill	Chicken	Venture Bros.	Moral Orel
	268	354	5 KNO	National Geographic		Heartbeat "Ties That Bind"		Midsomer Murders Sinister secrets are revealed. (N) (CC)				Warrendale
cable variety	575	583	20 CMT	Brooks & Dunn: One on One		The Show	Talkin' 'Bout	Gilmore Girls (CC)		Gilmore Girls (CC)		Cheerleaders
	615	520	31 A&E	CSI: Miami "Divorce Party"		CSI: Miami (CC)		(:01) CSI: Miami (CC)		(:01) CSI: Miami (CC)		CSI: Miami
	521	560	34 TLC	LA Ink (CC)		LA Ink "Kat Bares It All"		LA Ink "Aubry Tries to Help"		LA Ink (CC)		LA Ink (CC)
	616	522	39 SHO	Slings and Arrows (CC)		Nightmare at the End of the Hall (2008) Sara Rue. (CC)				Hot Rod ★★ (2007) Andy Samberg. (CC)		
	294	650	47 TBS	(6:00) Meet the Parents		Mr. Deeds ★ (2002) Adam Sandler, Winona Ryder. (CC)				The Truman Show ★★★ (1998) (CC)		
	603	561	69 FN	Top Chef Masters (CC)		Hell's Kitchen (CC)		River Cott		Chopped "Flower Power"		Top Chef
	-	-	95 AMC	(5:00) GoodFellas ★★★★		GoodFellas ★★★★ (1990, Crime Drama) Robert De Niro, Ray Liotta, Joe Pesci. (CC)						Untouchables
	320	621	60 CEN	(6:00) Tropic Thunder ★★★		The Unborn ★ (2009) Odette Yustman.			The Haunting in Connecticut ★★ (2009)			Eden Lake
	581	566	101 MTV	Canada's Next Top Model		Canada's Next Top Model		Canada's Next Top Model		Canada's Next Top Model		Model

SUNDAY 2/14/10

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3 CBC	Heartland (CC) (DVS)		Booky's Crush (2009) Megan Follows, Stuart Hughes. (CC)				CBC News: The National		News
	250	321	9 CTV	(3:30) XXI Winter Olympics Freestyle Skiing, Figure Skating, Luge, Medal Ceremonies. (Live) (CC)								CTV News (N)
	252	336	11 GTV	16:9-Picture	Family	Simpsons	Cleveland	Family Guy	Amer. Dad	Shark Tank (CC)		News Final
	256	389	12 VI	TMZ (CC)		The Amazing Race 16 (CC)		Undercover Boss "Hooters"		Cold Case "Bombers" (N)		New Canoe
	253	359	13 CITY	Survivorman (CC) (DVS)		Mantracker "Julio and Joe"		Extreme Makeover: Home Edition "Tripp Family" (N) (CC)				Crusoe
	-	-	14 CW	Boston Legal (CC)		CSI: Miami (CC)		CSI: NY "She's Not There"		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	60 Minutes (N) (CC)		The Amazing Race 16 (CC)		Undercover Boss "Hooters"		Cold Case "Bombers" (N)		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	XXI Winter Olympics Figure Skating, Freestyle Skiing, Luge, Skiing. (Same-day Tape) (CC)								KING 5 News
	288	380	24 ABC	Funniest Home Videos		Funniest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home Edition "Tripp Family" (N) (CC)				News
	290	382	28 FOX	'Til Death (N)	'Til Death (N)	Simpsons	Cleveland	Family Guy	Amer. Dad	News	Sports	House (CC)
news	502	390	23 NW	My Kidnapper (N) (CC)			Mansbridge	CBC News: The National		My Kidnapper (CC)		
	500	500	33 CNN	Newsroom		Black in America "Today's Pioneers"				Newsroom		Black
family sports	407	419	22 RSP	(3:30) XXI Winter Olympics Freestyle Skiing, Figure Skating, Speed Skating, Luge. (Live)								Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	NBA Basketball		XXI Winter Olympics Skiing, Biathlon. (Live)						SportsCentre
	552	543	25 YTV	(6:00) Ever After: A Cinderella Story ★★★			Family Biz	Fries That?	Fries That?	Survive This	Ghost	Adrenaline
	555	545	50 TEL	6TEEN	6TEEN	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	King of Hill	Chicken	Futurama	Tripping-Rift
	268	354	5 KNO	Planet Carnivore "Lions"		The Royal "Tutti Frutti"		Prime Suspect Tennison's case becomes complicated. (N)				Beautiful
cable variety	575	583	20 CMT	Live at the Jubilee		Johnny Reid Live		Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		Funniest Home Videos		Johnny Reid
	615	520	31 A&E	Criminal Minds (CC)		Criminal Minds (CC)		(:01) Criminal Minds (CC)		(:01) Criminal Minds (CC)		Criminal
	521	560	34 TLC	Strange Sex (CC)		Tiger Woods		Sextistics: Your Love Life		Strange Sex (CC)		Chopper
	616	522	39 SHO	Cra$h & Burn "Closure"		A Valentine Carol (2007, Romance) Emma Caulfield. (CC)				Damages "Flight's at 11:08"		Cra$h & Burn
	294	650	47 TBS	The Holiday	The Holiday ★★ (2006) Cameron Diaz, Kate Winslet, Jude Law. (CC)					(:15) Bewitched ★★ (2005) Nicole Kidman.		
	603	561	69 FN	Dinner: Impossible (CC)		Restaurant Makeover (CC)		Iron Chef America (CC)		Iron Chef America (CC)		Challenge
	-	-	95 AMC	(5:00) The Godfather, Part II ★★★★ (1974) Al Pacino. (CC)					The Godfather, Part II ★★★★ (1974) Al Pacino. (CC)			
	320	621	60 CEN	Vicky Cristina Barcelona		Fool's Gold ★ (2008, Action) Matthew McConaughey. (CC)				(9:55) Zack and Miri Make a Porno ★★		
	581	566	101 MTV	Peak Season	Peak Season	1 girl 5 gays	Over Bolts	Canada's Next Top Model		Canada's Next Top Model		Model

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Becker welcomes a son

It's a boy for tennis ace Boris Becker and his wife Sharlely "Lilly" Kerssenberg. The pair, who wed in June, welcomed a son, Amadeus Benedict Edley Luis Becker, in London on Feb. 9, Becker confirmed to German newspaper Bild. TVGUIDE.COM

Going Out

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

1 Vancouver 2010 Olympics

EVENT Canada's moment of pride is finally here. The games kick off today and the hopes of gold-medal glory are sky high right now. CTV is covering the event.

2 Amreeka

DVD New immigrant stories either tend to be ridiculously upbeat or terribly depressing. Not Amreeka. This tale of a Palestinian mother and son's journey to America keeps a sense of humour without losing reality.

3 Bioshock 2

GAME Given the pervasive weirdness of the series, it's a little surprising that it has become3 so popular. The game is set in the fictional dystopian city Raptur, eight years after the events of BioShock.

4 One Life Stand: Hot Chip

ALBUM The geeky British electro-pop band may not have the oomph, but they are the closest you'll get to Pet Shop Boys-era grooves these days. Their latest trolls out more bleepy party-starters.

5 Ellen DeGeneres

CELEBRITY Her daytime show may already be a hit, but Ellen DeGeneres is proving that her ratings magic also applies to the commedienne's new primetime gig. Viewership for American Idol was up by double digits (12 per cent) during last Tuesday's premiere, and DeGeneres earned lofty praise from co-host Kara DioGuardio who said "I think she did an incredible job."

6 The Wolfman

FILM To be honest, Universal's update of Lon Chaney Jr's 1951 classic doesn't look too promising. But here are the alternatives: The all-you-can-eat mush of Valentine's Day, or the kiddie clamour of Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief. See, B-grade horror heaven doesn't look that bad after all.

7 Sweet Little Lies: Lauren Conrad

BOOK Apparently there's life after reality shows. A pretty good one at that. The Hills star follows up her successful debut novel L.A. Candy with another shot of saccharine fluff. Sweet Little Lies continues the Hollywood adventures of conrad's alter-ego Jane Roberts — which really means more words spent on parties and shopping.

Mix of Six

Bedouin Soundclash and Hey Ocean

When: Saturday at 8 p.m.
Where: Richmond O Zone
Hey Ocean will headline for Bedouin Soundclash at this free concert. .

Opening Ceremonies Recap

When: Friday, 11 a.m.
Where: Live City Yaletown — David Lam Park
Live City will broadcast the Opening Ceremonies of previous Winter Games, followed by the pre-show for the 2010 ceremonies..

WILCO

When: Sunday, 9 p.m.
Where: David Lam Park
Alternative rock band Wilco performs a mix of country and folk-rocks.

Fear of Light

When: Friday - Sunday .
Where: Historica Theatre, 1895 Venables Street .
An ensemble of singing travellers performs spectacle of music and movement. Tickets: $20 - $35.

Dance Canada Dance

When: Saturday to Sunday, 8 p.m.
Where: Queen Elizabeth Threatre, 700 Hamilton St. Performances by both the National Ballet of Canada and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. 1-800-842-5389.

Chinese New Year Parade

When: Sunday, 9:30 a.m.
Where: East Pender and Keefer Streets
36th Annual Parade.

British fashion designer Alexander McQueen was found dead in his London home Feb. 11, 2010.

McQueen found dead

British Designer's death shocks fashion world

British fashion designer Alexander McQueen was found dead in his London home yesterday. He was 40 years old.

The circumstances pointed to a possible suicide, but there was no official confirmation from police or his publicists. According to an anonymous source, an ambulance was called at 10 a.m., and workers found McQueen hanging in his apartment.

His sudden death robbed the fashion scene of one of its most innovative and successful young designers. He made his name first in London, then wooed audiences in Paris, New York and Milan to take his place in the upper echelons of the design world.

Yet recently posted comments on his Twitter page showed that McQueen was distraught over the Feb. 2 death of his mother. Little was immediately known about the circumstances surrounding his death, which came as the fashion elite was gathered in New York for a series of catwalk shows.

A presentation of McQueen's secondary label, McQ, had been scheduled for yeseterday's opening day of New York Fashion Week. Acclaim and honours came pouring for the talented, bearded man favoured by celebrities like Madonna, Lady Gaga and Naomi Campbell. Despite the accolades, McQueen clung tenaciously to his privacy, turning down most interview requests and shying away from the post-show limelight other designers craved.

He was the youngest of six children born to a taxi driver and a teacher, his representatives in New York said.

Known for his dramatic statement pieces and impeccable tailoring, he helped raise the profile of British fashion and was recognized by the Queen in 2003 when she made him a Commander of the British Empire for his fashion leadership.

His pieces were coveted and treasured by stylish women across the globe.

"McQueen influenced a whole generation of designers. His brilliant imagination knew no bounds as he conjured up collection after collection of extraordinary designs," said Alexandra Shulman, the editor of British Vogue.

Vivienne Westwood, perhaps Britain's most revered designer, said she was "incredibly sorry" to hear of McQueen's death.

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Celebrating Valentine's Day...

Love Letters

Metro readers from coast-to-coast are a romantic bunch. When we asked you to submit your sweet nothings, we were deluged with love letters that would even make cupid blush. Here are some of our favourites

ABOVE: JUN AND EUYJEE, TORONTO
We do everything together, and take care of each other. You are the best of all, and I love you (사랑해).
- EUYJEE

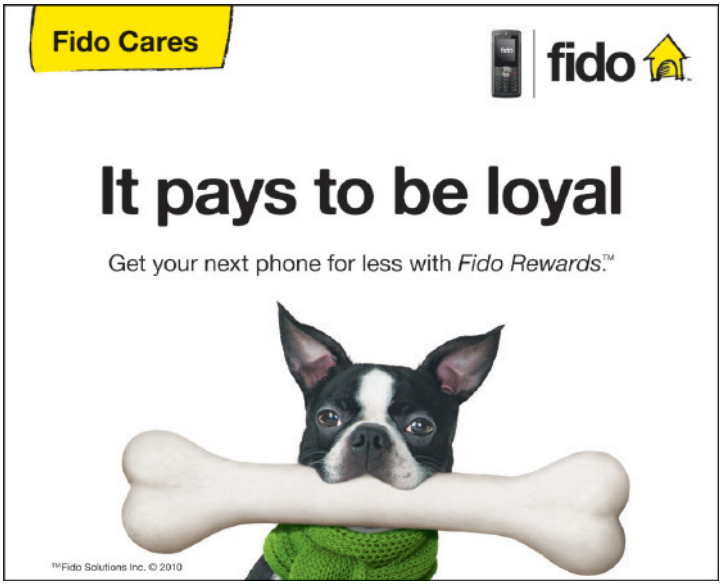
RIGHT: CHARITY AND RYAN, VANCOUVER
In the words of a zombie, "urghghghdghghg." I love you very much sweetheart!
- CHARITY

CHUCK AND BILL, OTTAWA
Bill, we may be together over 22 years already, and we may be an old married couple, but would you please still BEE my Valentine? Love you with all my heart and soul.
- CHUCK

SHARMIN AND TANVIR, TORONTO
When you cry I can feel it through my soul… smile always.
- TANVIR

MARINA AND KEEGAN, VANCOUVER
To Keegan:
Here's to love at first sight, talking on the phone all night, to singing along to the radio in the car and running towards each other from afar. Here's to our first kiss and over three years of bliss. Here's to being my best friend, and someone on whom I can depend. Happy Valentine's Day Goose!
Xoxo Duckie
- MARINA

LILY, VANCOUVER
To my best friend, my knight, my love and my all... No words can explain how I truly miss you. A little more patience and hard work for both of us. We will make this work no matter what other challenges may arise. Sending my Valentine's spirit across the miles! I love you!
- LILY



Blunt says no to airbrushing

Emily Blunt hates airbrushing. The star is proud of her curvy figure and wants to show it off, femalefirst.co.uk reports. She said: "I hate when your legs are three times the length they actually are. It's unfair." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Willis' Die Hard rep follows him

THEY DON'T MAKE ACTION HEROES (OR MOVIES) LIKE THEY USED TO Bruce Willis claims drunken guys always try to start fights with him, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The 54-year-old actor gets annoyed by men who want to challenge him in bars because of his tough guy persona.

"It took me a long time to understand that a lot of guys wanted to be the guy who kicked John McClane's a—," he said to Men's Journal about his Die Hard character.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Mayer's eyes wet with regret

'I SWEAR I DIDN'T MEAN TO SAY THE WORDS THAT I SAID' (INSERT TEARS) Amidst criticism for his comments in a Playboy interview — including racist remarks and racy details of sex with Jessica Simpson — John Mayer issued a tearful apology at his concert in Nashville on Wednesday night, people.com reports.

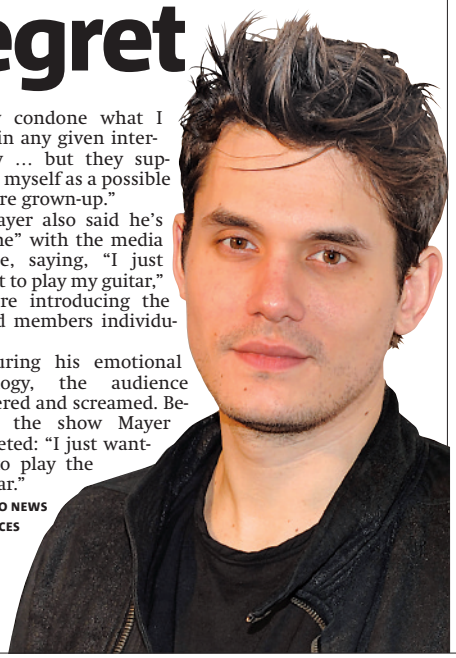
Wringing his hands on stage, the troubled guitarist told his audience at the Sommet Center that he fell into "a wormhole of selfishness, greediness and arrogance" and "in the quest to be clever, forgot about the people who love me and that I love."

Mayer, who was visibly choked up, added that his bandmates were on stage with him "not because they condone what I say in any given interview … but they support myself as a possible future grown-up."

Mayer also said he's "done" with the media game, saying, "I just want to play my guitar," before introducing the band members individually.

During his emotional apology, the audience cheered and screamed. Before the show Mayer Tweeted: "I just wanted to play the guitar."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Ellen's undies make big splash in Patrick Dempsey's pants

ELLEN IS ALWAYS GOOD FROM SOME SUPPORT Most people would grimace getting underwear for a present — but not Patrick Dempsey, usmagazine.com reports. On Thursday's Ellen DeGeneres Show, the Valentine's Day star, 44, says he can't stop wearing Ellen undies.

"It is a great gift," he says. "You get this wonderful gift that says 'Ellen' right here on the band. It is fantastic underwear."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

TILA TEQUILA wants another baby, Amy Winehouse is a Gleek, Nicole Richie's sense of humour needs to grow up, and Michael Lohan offers his daughter some advice.

@officialTila: Any men out there who would like to be my next baby daddy?? This is quite addicting!

@amywinehouse: How cool is Glee? it's funny s‹ reminds me of school. wicked that they did rehab sounds the nuts. thanks Glee

@nicolerichie: WHY, no matter how old I get, are farts so f@!king funny!?!

@Lindsaylohan India and Haiti were good starts, but NOW you have to focus on finding YOU. the LINDSAY THAT STARTED and rose to the top.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Damon-Douglas love-in

FROM WALL STREET AND JASON BOURNE TO LIBERACE AND LOVER? Michael Douglas is looking forward to having Matt Damon as a lover in their new movie, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The star plays flamboyant gay pianist Liberace in a new biopic of the same name and rather than being nervous about having Damon as his younger partner in the film, he is excited about it.

Douglas said: "I'm just going to get really comfortable so it's not a caricature. Matt Damon's going to be my younger lover. God bless Matt."

The filmwill be a departure for both actors, as they are both known for their macho movies.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sherri Shepherd's ex wants out of public spotlight

WON'T SOMEONE PLEASE THINK OF THE CHILDREN? Sherri Shepherd's ex husband Jeff Tarpley has asked his ex, asking that she stop talking about their split on TV (The View, among other broadcasts) for the sake of their son.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Alec Baldwin rushed to hospital and pines for Basinger

REVERSE MID-LIFE CRISIS Alec Baldwin had to be rushed to hospital after becoming "unresponsive," femalefirst.co.uk reports. The 30 Rock star was taken to New York's Lenox Hill Hospital. He was later released. Baldwin — who is set to co-host next month's Oscars with Steve Martin — recently hinted he still has strong feelings for his ex-wife Kim Basinger.

"You get divorced, meet a woman, marry her and, by the time all that goes by, you're ready to go back to your ex-wife," he said.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Kardashian goes from Super Bowl to producing

I GUESS ANYONE CAN DO IT Now that her boyfriend has won a Super Bowl, Kim Kardashian has a new goal: To produce TV shows — lots of TV shows, says people.com "I definitely see myself doing a lot more (producing)." she says. METRO NEWS SERVICES

The Weather Network ©The Weather Network 2010
Today Rain 70% 9°/7°
Saturday Rain 80% 10°/7°
Sunday Rain 80% 9°/5°
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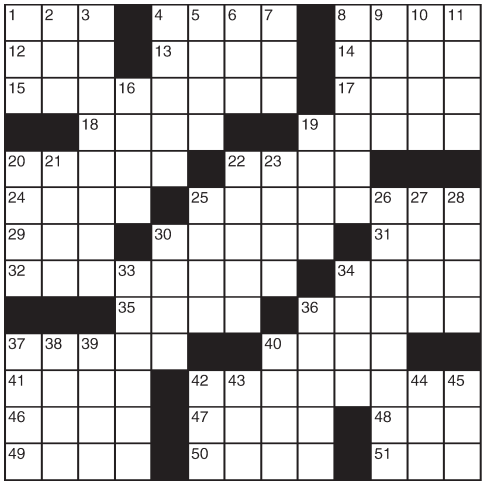
For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: **metronews.ca/food**

Take Five



ACROSS

1 Dined
4 Last year's frosh
8 Actor Pitt
12 Hawaiian garland
13 Greek vowel
14 Continental coin
15 Collar style
17 From the beginning
18 Hastens
19 Church musicmaker
20 Unyielding
22 Disappear slowly
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34 Trucker on the radio
35 Cain's victim
36 Snapshot
37 Canine sounds
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41 Formerly, formerly
42 Long, slender cigar
46 "— Ha'i"
47 Composer Stravinsky
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1 Matterhorn or Jungfrau
2 Golfer's prop
3 Having only two choices
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5 "My bad"
6 Sch. org.
7 — Solo
8 Carrier
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30 Steak-house order
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Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

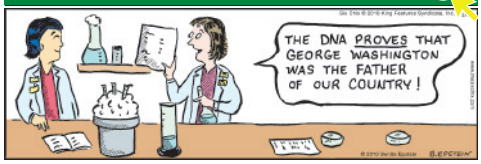
8	2						5	9
		4	5			7		
6			4		3			
7				8		6	2	
				4				
	8	1		6				3
			6		2			4
		5			9	1		
9	6						7	8

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

4	3	7	8	6	2	1	5	9
2	1	9	5	3	4	7	6	8
6	5	8	7	9	1	3	4	2
3	2	5	6	4	7	9	8	1
1	7	4	9	2	8	5	3	6
8	9	6	3	1	5	4	2	7
9	8	2	1	5	3	6	7	4
5	4	1	2	7	6	8	9	3
7	6	3	4	8	9	2	1	5

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca



Metro Recipe of the Day

Chicken Couscous Salad

INGREDIENTS:

1 cup (250 ml) couscous
1 2/3 cups (400 ml) boiling chicken stock
2 red peppers, quartered
1 zucchini, quartered lengthwise
5 oz (150 g) frozen fava beans
5 tbsp (75 ml) vinaigrette
2 tbsp (25 ml) lemon juice
1 cinnamon stick, bruised
4 tbsp (60 ml) toasted flaked almonds
14 oz (400 g) cooked chicken, chopped
1/2 oz (15 g) fresh parsley, chopped

METHOD:

1. Preheat broiler. Mix couscous with boiling stock and 1 tsp (5 ml) salt, then leave to soak.
2. While couscous is soaking, broil peppers and zucchini until browned and just tender, turning as necessary. Cut into small pieces.
3. While peppers are broiling, cook fava beans in pot of boiling water 3 minutes, then drain and rinse under cold running water. Pat dry.
4. Fork through couscous briskly to separate grains. Add vinaigrette, lemon juice, cinnamon stick, flaked almonds, grilled vegetables and chicken. Season, then add chopped herbs and combine well. Serve.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
The current cosmic climate is encouraging you to think deeply about who you are and what you do in the world.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
It is not enough that you know something needs to be changed — you must have the courage to go out and change it yourself.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You don't lack for self-belief but it will take more than that to realize your dreams, and you know it.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
You may look confident on the outside but on the inside you are plagued by self-doubt, although at the moment that may be no bad thing.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
You are the kind of person who can talk yourself in to or out of anything and today you should talk yourself into taking a trip away.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Just because something is fashionable does not mean it is right and you would be wise to meditate on that point today.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
You will get the chance today to understand what makes someone tick. According to the planets it's important to know why they think and act.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Someone in a position of authority is about to make you an attractive offer but because it means cutting back on your social life you may not be sure.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Focus on things you understand today and avoid issues where your knowledge is sketchy or limited.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Tell the truth as you see it today, even at the risk of upsetting your nearest and dearest. Some issues are too important to be swept under the carpet.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Don't expect the people you live or work with to read between the lines of what you are saying.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
What you fear the most is what you have least to fear. Venus in your sign from Thursday should set your mind at rest.

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Chicago	from $499 + taxes & fees $115
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